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A revision of the genus *Bombyciella* Draudt, 1950, with description of a new species and a new genus (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae: Xyleninae)

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Abstract

The small Noctuidae genus *Bombyciella* Draudt, 1950, is revised, based on type-material of its only two known species, *Bombyciella talpa* Draudt, 1950 and *Bombyciella sericea* Draudt, 1950. *Bombyciella antra* sp. n. from southwest China is described as a new species close to *B. talpa*, the type-species of *Bombyciella*. *B. sericea* is found to be different in most characters, not congeneric with *B. talpa*, and most closely related to the genus *Euplexia* Stephens and *Chandata* Moore. Therefore a new genus, *Maxiana* gen. n., is described for its inclusion. These genera belong to two different tribus in the subfamily Xyleninae, Xylenini (*Bombyciella*) and Phlogophorini (*Maxiana* gen. n.). The systematic placement within the two subfamilies is also discussed. Lectotypes for *B. talpa* and *B. sericea* are designated.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, *Bombyciella*, *Maxiana*, new genus, *B. antra*, new species, taxonomic notes, new combination, China

Introduction

The genus *Bombyciella* was established by Draudt (1950) for two species, *B. talpa* (designated here as type-species) and *B. sericea*, recognizing by the different shape of the antennae. He combined this genus with numerous other genera into the subfamily “Cucullianae” (sensu Hampson).

The present revision was motivated by the discovery of an unknown species of Noctuidae in China (West Sichuan) which appeared to be a member of the genus *Bombyciella*. Examination the type material of *Bombyciella* in the “Draudt collection” (i.e. part of the Noctuidae of the Höne collection studied by Max Draudt) at ZFMK, Bonn not only verified this hypothesis but revealed the fact that “*Bombyciella*” *sericea* does not belong to this genus and nor even to the same tribus as *B. talpa*. Instead *B. sericea* belongs to an undescribed genus related to *Euplexia* and *Chandata*, in the tribus Phlogophorini and Apameini, which is described here as *Maxiana* gen. n. Furthermore, the study of the genitalia characters of *Bombyciella* confirmed Draudt’s assumption that this genus is related to *Brachylomia* Hampson (= “*Bombycia*” sensu Draudt, 1950, a preoccupied name) in the subfamily Xyleninae.

Material and methods

The specimens of the new species described herein and also some of *B. talpa* were collected at ultraviolet light. Type specimens needed for comparison are all part of the Höne collection at ZFMK, Bonn. The DNA barcodes (658 base pairs of Cytochrome Oxidase Subunit I 5' region, COI-5P) were sequenced by Paul Hebert's laboratory at the University of Guelph. Digital images were made using a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera, a Canon EOS 450D

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