

Ergebnisse der zoologischen Forschungen von Dr. Z. Kaszab in der Mongolei

31. A New Symmocid Genus and Species from Mongolia (Lepidoptera: Symmocidae)

By L. A. GOZMÁNY, Budapest

Among the more than 2500 micro-moths collected by Dr. Z. KASZAB in Mongolia in 1964, there was a single male specimen belonging to the family Symmocidae. Besides this new instance again corroborating the relative rarity of the Symmocids even in copious materials collected with an eye for these animals, the new species is also remarkable for a feature which singles it out from all other species of the family, its capture thus being doubly fortunate. The singular insect requires the establishment of a new genus, to be described as follows:

Cornusymmoca gen. n.

[Derivation of generic name: cornus (= horn) + Symmoca

Head with scales loosely forward; a curved, beak-shaped excrescence pointing anteriorad, sharp at apex and along upper crest, wide at base and compact throughout; antennae simple; eye globular and slightly protruding; labial palpi squat, short, compact and porrect, second joint with appressed dense scales, third joint small, pointed (Fig. 1 : B). Fore wing narrow, costa slightly concave to straight, apex pointed, termen without angular transition into dorsum; venation: r_1 from before middle, r_{4+5} stalked, r_5 to termen, m and cu systems free. Hind wing subovately lanceolate, about as wide as fore wing, $rr+m_1$ on very long stalk (4 : 1), m_3 and cu_1 connate from angle (Fig. 1 : A).

Male genital organ: of normal Symmocid structure, with but strongly developed transtillar lobes and dactyloid to nearly vestigial sacculi.

The new genus is closely related, as concerns venation and genital structure, to *Mylothra* MEYRICK, 1907 (Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., 17, p. 743) (= *Megasymmoca* GOZMÁNY, 1963, Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 9, p. 78–81, syn. n.) and *Kertomesis* GOZMÁNY, 1962 (Acta Zool., Ac. Sci. Hung., 8, p. 39–41) (= *Paradoris* MEYRICK, 1907 (Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., 17, p. 740). The extraordinary cephalic structure, however, isolates the new genus from all known Symmocid genera.

Type-species: *Cornusymmoca mongolica* sp. n.

Cornusymmoca mongolica sp. n.

Alar expanse: 18 mm.

Head with whitish scales, antennae dark greyish, „horn” chitinous, black, labial palpi whitish yellow with oblique, dark band above, third joint whitish. Thorax much worn and scales abraded. Fore wing whitish with a stronger yellowish suffusion especially in middle and subcostal area, a fawnish tinge in apical area and in radial zone; cilia whitish. Hind wing light greyish. Abdomen yellowish.

Male genital organ (Fig. 2): uncus and gnathos strong, valvae rather weak, elongated, transtillae two large, flap-like lobes, their surface arachnoid, firmly connected in middle and with valvae, sacculus small, short, dactyloid, simple, anellus strong, spade-like, elongate, medially constricted to a narrow tube, saccus medium; aedoeagus simple, straight, tubular, with one row of smaller cornuti.

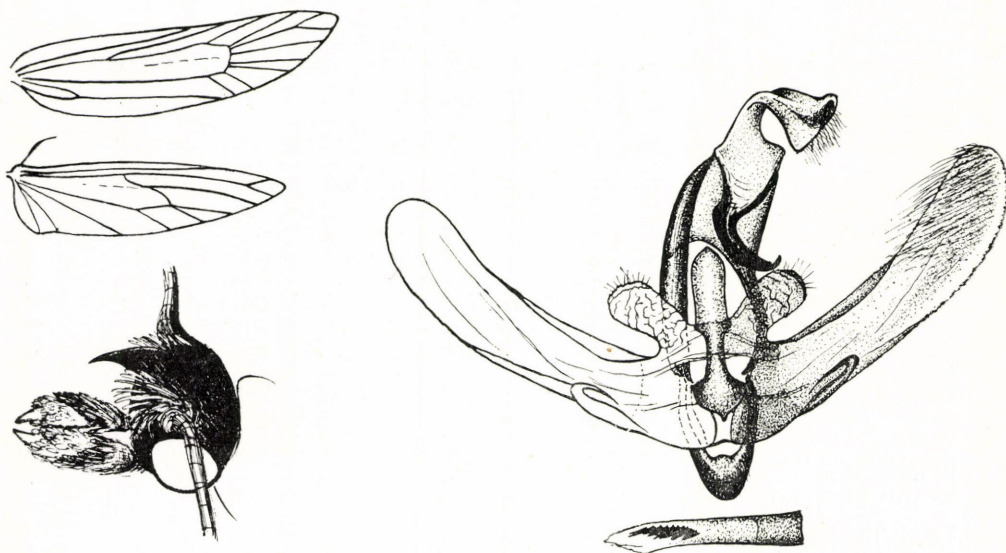


Fig. 1. A: Venation of *Cornusymmoca* gen. n. — B: Head, laterosuperiorly of *Cornusymmoca mongolica* sp. n. — Fig. 2. Male genital organ of *Cornusymmoca mongolica* sp. n., ventrally, aedoeagus removed, gen. prep. 2076; $\times 20$

Holotype male: ,Mongolia, Südgobi aimak, Gurban sajchan ul, 30 km S v. somon Bulgan, 1700 m, Exp. DR. Z. KASZAB, 1964 (Nr. 155), 19. VI. 1964 + gen. prep. 2076''; deposited in the Zoological Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

The new species and genus fit well among the eremophilous taxa of the elevated Central Asiatic plateaus, characterized by the *Mylothra* MEYR. species in the West (Iran, Afghanistan, SW Soviet Union, Beluchistan) and the *Kertomesis* GOZM. taxa in the south (India). Due to its striking appearance, it cannot be confused with any known species of the family.

The family Symmocidae was hitherto known mainly from the wider Mediterranean area, but the later investigations had considerably extended its range over the Near and Middle East, with one known representative penetrating even into China (*Irenidora* MEYRICK, 1938, Dt. Ent. Z. Iris, 52, p. 7). I am confident that scores of yet undescribed Symmocid species will be found in South and Central Asia, especially in the arid localities, and DR. KASZAB's further investigations in Mongolia will in this respect be of special significance.