

## Notes on *Macrocneme imbellis* DIETZ, 1994 (Lepidoptera, Arctiidae)

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Abstract. The paper contains a complementary description and new information on variability and geographical distribution of *Macrocneme imbellis* DIETZ.

Key words: Arctiidae, *Macrocneme*, distribution, Ecuador.

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*Macrocneme imbellis* DIETZ is one of the most remarkable species of the genus. It was described only six years ago on the basis of a single male from Peru collected in March 1932.

In 1999 I had an opportunity to work on the Lepidoptera collection of Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen. In the course of determining the genus *Macrocneme* I paid my attention to the two specimens with entirely white abdominal sternites. After examining the genitalia protruding partly from the abdomens I realised that the moths belong to *M. imbellis*.

Because the specimens slightly differ from the original description it is reasonable to add some information concerning individual variation. The characters are presented following DIETZ's description from the page 86 of his monograph (DIETZ 1994).

**C o m p l e m e n t a r y   d e s c r i p t i o n.** General coloration of one specimen is green which corresponds with the original description, while the metallic pattern of the other moth is distinctly blue-green (which is well visible on the photos).

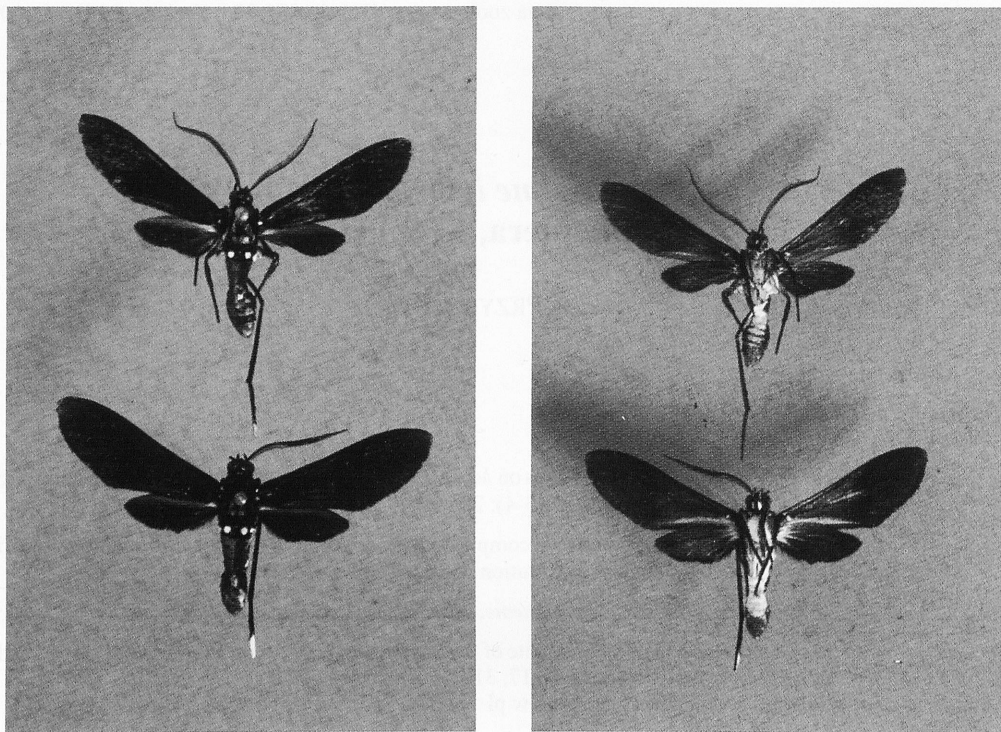
Male. Length of forewing: 15.4 and 16.5 mm.

Head. Both specimens possess much darker labial palpi; only the basal half of first segment is white; segments second and third are entirely brownish black (one specimen has a narrow white line on outer surface of second segment).

Thorax. Front coxae white; mid and hind ones covered with cream scales; front and mid femora brown above and white below; white scales on all tibia scarce (hind tibia of one specimen entirely black).

Forewing. The broad white streak on underside of "blue" specimen is reduced to the patch at base and some scales in the middle of anal vine.

Hindwing. White patch at the base notably reduced in "blue" specimen.



Figs 1-2. *Macrocneme imbellis* DIETZ. 1 – upper surfaces: top – “blue” specimen, bottom – “green” specimen, 2 – undersurfaces: top – “blue” specimen; bottom – “green” specimen.

**Abdomen.** General appearance fits the description except for the last 4 sternits of the “blue” one which are edged with brownish black scales.

**Genitalia.** Valva, uncus, juxta and aedeagus of both specimens are similar to each other and show no differences from the holotype (gen. slides Nr P 20 and P 21).

**Material examined.** 2 ♂♂ - 21.07.1990., Rio Negro, 1300 m., prov. Tungurahua, Ecuador, leg. Jonas KRAT – smaller, blue specimen – 8.08.1990., Puerto Misahualli, 400 m., prov. Napo, Ecuador, leg. Jonas KRAT – bigger, green specimen.

**R e m a r k s.** The species known until now only from Iquitos, Peru inhabits probably much wider areas of NW South America. Its range is not restricted to Amazon Basin but includes also the Andean slopes. By now ten species of *Macrocneme* are recorded from Ecuador. The “blue” specimen collected in high elevation is probably a “mountain”, darker form of the species.

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