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Characterisation of the Larvae of Australian Nacophorini

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Abstract

The Australian Nacophorini and related taxa are described using 43 larval morphological characters. A selection of these characters were used previously for a morphological phylogeny of the Australian Ennominae together with characters of the ova and adults. The larvae of 67 species are illustrated using photographs and setal maps. On this basis, tentative comparisons are made between the Australian Nacophorini and the world fauna.

Key words: Australia, Ennominae, Geometridae, larva, Lepidoptera, morphology, Nacophorini, taxonomy

Introduction

Geometrid larvae are easily distinguished from those of other Lepidoptera by the loss of prolegs on A3–5 and their associated ‘looping’ form of locomotion. They are also differentiated from other families by the pres-