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The gelechiid fauna of the southern Ural Mountains, part I: descriptions of seventeen new species (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)

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Abstract

This paper is the first in a two-part series treating the family Gelechiidae from the Southern Ural Mountains, including newly described species. The material was collected during 1996–2007 on 21 different Finnish-Russian expeditions. *Catatinagma* Rebel, 1903, stat. rev., is removed from synonymy of *Apatetris* Staudinger, 1879, and is now considered valid. Two generic names are synonymized: *Coloptilia* Fletcher, 1940, syn. n. of *Catatinagma* and *Chilopselaphus* Mann, 1867, syn. n. of *Megacraspedus* Zeller, 1839. A short introduction is given for the following unrevised genera: *Apatetris* Staudinger, 1879, *Catatinagma* Rebel, 1903 comb. rev., *Caulastrocecis* Chrétien, 1931 and *Megacraspedus* Zeller, 1839. Seventeen new species are described: *Catatinagma kraterella* Junnilainen & Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Metanarsia guberlica* Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Caulastrocecis perexigella* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Megacraspedus litovalvellus* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Megacraspedus multispinella* Junnilainen & Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Megacraspedus orenburgensis* Junnilainen & Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Megacraspedus albovenata* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Megacraspedus longipalpella* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Monochroa uralensis* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Teleiodes kaitilai* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Athrips aquila* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Athrips bidzilyai* Junnilainen **sp. n.**, *Ephysteris tenuisaccus* Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Hedma karsholti* Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Lutilabria prolata* Junnilainen & Nupponen **sp. n.**, *Syncopacma steppicolella* Junnilainen **sp. n.** and *Helcystogramma flavescens* Junnilainen **sp. n.**

Key words: Europe, Russia, faunistics, new species

Introduction

This paper is the first in a two-part series summarizing results of our study of the family Gelechiidae from the Southern Ural Mountains. The present paper includes descriptions of new species and some taxonomical changes to the generic classification. In the second paper (part II in this issue (Junnilainen *et al.* 2010)) a complete list of 236 gelechiid species recorded from the Southern Ural Mountains is provided, as well as additional currently unpublished taxonomical and distributional notes on the included taxa.

Material and methods

Area of study. Area of study is situated in Sverdlovsk, Cheliabinsk and Orenburg districts and Bashkiria in the southern Ural Mountains, between 50°40'N–59°32'N and 53°05'E–63°45'E. The majority of collecting localities were situated on the southeastern foothill region and at low altitude. The habitats were mainly different kinds of steppe, but also taiga forests, alpine meadows and mountain tundra. The lowest elevation locality was in the valley of the river Ilek, Novoiletzk (100 m), and the highest was the Iremel Mountain (1580 m). Most localities were at an elevation of 200–450 m. For further information on collecting sites, see Junnilainen *et al.* (2010).

The present paper is based on the material collected during 1996–2007 on 21 different expeditions. Collecting was conducted both by artificial light at night and by sweeping and netting during daytime. Additional material from the collection of the Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki (ZMH) is included in the type series when available. The type specimens can be borrowed by request through the Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki or directly from the authors.

Abbreviations. The following abbreviations are used: ZMH (Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki, Finland), BMNH (The Natural History Museum, London, UK), LMK (Landesmuseum Kärnten, Klagenfurt, Austria), ZISP (Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia), ZMUC (Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark); TKN (personal collection of T. and K. Nupponen); JPK (personal collection of J.-P. Kaitila); and JJ (personal collection of J. Junnilainen).