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A new species of *Meharia* Chrétien, 1915 (Lepidoptera, Cossidae) from the United Arab Emirates, with a world catalogue of the genus

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Abstract

Meharia breithaupti sp. nov. is described from the United Arab Emirates.

Key words: *Meharia breithaupti*, new species, Arabian Peninsula

Introduction

The genus *Meharia* Chrétien, 1915 constitutes a monotypic subfamily, the Mehariinae, which is highly distinctive within the Cossidae (Yakovlev 2011). It was established for *Meharia incurvariella* Chrétien, 1915. Despite the descriptions of several additional species in the 20th Century, morphological features of the genus were described in details only recently (Komarov & Zolotuhin 2005; Saldaitis & Ivinskis 2010; Borth *et al.* 2011; Yakovlev 2011). Currently, twelve species and one subspecies are included in the genus. Half of them were described very recently (Saldaitis & Ivinskis 2010; Borth *et al.* 2011; Ivinskis *et al.* 2011; Yakovlev 2011; Yakovlev *et al.* 2013). They occur from the southern Volga River area through the Near East and the Sahara, south to Kenya and Malawi (Figs 1–13). Everywhere representatives of *Meharia* inhabit extremely arid biotopes (Yakovlev & Dubatolov 2013). During a survey of the Lepidoptera of Abu Dhabi, UAE, by Roland Breithaupt, a new species of *Meharia* was discovered, and its description is given below.

List of abbreviations

BMNH	Natural History Museum (London, G.B.);
MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France);
MNHW	Naturhistorisches Museum (Wien, Austria);
MWM	Museum of Thomas Witt (Munich, Germany);
ZSSM	Zoologische Staatssammlung der Bayerischen Staaten (Munich, Germany).

Description of a new species

Meharia breithaupti Yakovlev, sp. nov.

(Figs 3, 18–19, 43–49)

Type. Holotype: male, UAE, Ras Al Khaimah, Esfai garbage dump, 25° 06' 19" N / 56° 07' 52" E, 488 m, 1.12.2013, et light, R. Breithaupt leg. Deposited in the Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia. Paratype: female, UAE, Ras Al Khaimah, Wadi Sifuni, 25° 10' 09" N / 56° 04' 32" E, 290 m, 6.12.2012, et light, R. Breithaupt leg. Deposited in private collection of Thomas Sobczyk (Hoyerswerda, Germany).

***Meharia semilactea* (Warren et Rothschild, 1905) (Figs 10, 35–37)**

Alavona semilactea Warren et Rothschild, 1905: 32.

Type locality: Nakheila, R. Atbara [NW Sudan].

Type material (holotype) in BMNH, examined.

Distribution: Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Egypt (Sinai peninsula), Morocco, N. Sudan, Mauritania (Rungs 1979; Wiltshire 1982, 1990; Legrain & Wiltshire 1998; Hacker 1999; Hacker *et al.* 1999, 2001; Yakovlev & Saldaitis 2008; Yakovlev & Breithaupt 2013).

***Meharia tancredii* Sutton, 1963 (Figs 11, 38)**

Meharia tancredii Sutton, 1963: 365.

Type locality: Meyan Kaleh peninsula, N. Iran

Type material (holotype) in BMNH, examined.

Distribution: N. Iran.

***Meharia tanganyikae* Bradley, 1952 (Figs 12, 39–40)**

Meharia tanganyikae Bradley, 1952: 242.

Type locality: Tanganyika, Ngaruka.

Type material (holotype) in BMNH, examined.

Distribution: Tanzania.

***Meharia yakovlevi* Saldaitis et Ivinskis, 2010 (Figs 13, 41–42)**

Meharia yakovlevi Saldaitis et Ivinskis, 2010: 379.

Type locality: Socotra Island, N hills near Hadibu.

Type material (holotype) in MWM, examined.

Distribution: Yemen (Socotra Isl.).

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