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## ***Laetosphecia*, a new genus of clearwing moths from south-eastern China, with a brief review of the Sesiini from China (Lepidoptera, Sesiidae)**

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### **Abstract**

In this study, a new genus of Sesiini, *Laetosphecia* Kallies & Arita **gen. nov.**, is described. The type species, *Laetosphecia variegata* (Walker, 1865) **comb. nov.**, and a new species, *Laetosphecia brideliana* Kallies & Arita **spec. nov.**, occur in south-eastern China (Province of Guangdong and Hong Kong). The larvae of both species cause galls in small branches of *Bridelia tomentosa* Blume (Phyllanthaceae). Furthermore, *Laetosphecia leucozona* (Hampson, 1919) **comb. nov.** from north-eastern India is transferred to the new genus. Additionally, we briefly review the Sesiini fauna of Mainland China and present an updated checklist for this region. *Trilochana caseariae* Yang & Wang, 1989 **syn. nov.** is established as a junior synonym of *Trilochana scolioides* Moore, 1879. *Lenyra ashtaroth* (Westwood, 1848) and *Sphecosesia rhodites* Kallies & Arita, 2004 are reported from China for the first time.

**Key words:** new species, Cossoidea, Asia, India, *Bridelia tomentosa*

### **Introduction**

The Sesiini of South-east Asia are exceedingly diverse, with currently nine genera and about 60 species known. The group was revised relatively recently (Kallies & Arita 2004), and since then only a small number of additional taxa were described and few taxonomic changes were introduced (Fischer 2005, Heppner 2010, Kallies 2011, Kallies *et al.* 2014).

During the study of Sesiidae from China we have encountered two unusual species of Sesiini, which were found to belong to an undescribed genus, *Laetosphecia* **gen. nov.** The type species of this new genus, *Tinthia variegata* Walker, 1865, was originally considered part of a group of species now placed in the Tinthiinae subfamily. Later, Hampson (1919) placed it in *Gaea* Beutenmüller, 1896 (a replacement name for *Larunda* Edwards, 1881, a synonym of *Euhagena* Edwards, 1881, Paranthrenini), and described a second species, *Gaea leucozona*. *Laetosphecia variegata* (Walker, 1865) **comb. nov.** is known from Hong Kong and Guangzhou (Prov. Guangdong), south-eastern China. Another species, *Laetosphecia brideliana* Kallies & Arita **spec. nov.**, is described from Guangzhou. Furthermore, *Laetosphecia leucozona* (Hampson, 1919) **comb. nov.**, originally described in *Gaea*, from north-eastern India is transferred to this new genus.

Finally, we provide a checklist of the tribe Sesiini for Mainland China. It comprises 20 species, two of which, *Lenyra ashtaroth* (Westwood, 1848) and *Sphecosesia rhodites* Kallies & Arita, 2004, reported from China for the first time. *Trilochana caseariae* Yang & Wang, 1989 **syn. nov.** is established as a junior synonym of *Trilochana scolioides* Moore, 1879.

This species was known only from northern India, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand and Vietnam (Kallies & Arita 2004). It is here reported from Tibet (China) for the first time.

**Material examined.** 4♂, 5♀, Zayu county, Ma-Ma-luo, 15–28.VI.2010 (Fig. 13, CAK).



**FIGURES 12–13.** Sesiini recorded from China for the first time. **12.** *Specosesia rhodites*, 27.5 mm wingspan (CAK). **13.** *Lenyra ashtaroth*, 60 mm wingspan (CAK).

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