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A new species *Micrarctia kautti* (Lepidoptera: Erebidae, Arctiinae) from West China

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A new tiger moth, *Micrarctia kautti* **sp. n.**, from southwest China, Sichuan is described. A diagnostic comparison with *Micrarctia trigona* (Leech, 1899) is provided. During recent years the Chinese Arctiini have been intensively collected and explored (Dubatolov, 1996a; Dubatolov, 1996b; Dubatolov, 2003; Dubatolov, Kishida & Wu, 2005; Fang & Cao, 1984; Fang, 2000 and numerous other publications) so the discovery of a striking new species by Sergey Murzin in the Dafengding Mountains, Sichuan Province, was most unexpected.

Institutional acronyms used are as follows: ASV = Aidas Saldaitis (Vilnius, Lithuania); KNE = Kari Nupponen (Espoo, Finland); PKT = Peter Kautt (Tübingen, Germany); RMB = Ramon Macià (Barselona, Spain); WIGJ = World Insect Gallery (Joniškis, Lithuania).

Micrarctia kautti sp. n.

(Figs 1, 3, 4)

Type material. Holotype: male (Fig. 1), China, Sichuan, Dafengding Mts, 50 km N Meigu, 3100 m, 14–16.VIII.2007, S. Murzin leg., (Slide No. OP2835m) preserved in ASV collection, later to be deposited in the WIGJ.

Paratypes: 24 males (Fig. 3), with the same data as the holotype in the KNE and PKT collections; 1 male, China, S Sichuan, pass 30 km SW Mianning, 3000-3400m, 11–13.VIII.2007, S. Murzin leg., in RMB collection.

Diagnosis. *M. kautti* is a relative of *M. trigona* (Fig. 2) but can be distinguished from it by both external and genital features. Externally the new species is characterized by two yellow long forewing longitudinal stripes extending from the base towards the outer margin, and pure pale yellow hind wings which are almost without dark markings except occasionally for short, narrow dark grey radial stripes and double apical and tornal dark dots may be present. The forewings of *M. kautti* are significantly larger (wingspan 37–41 mm, (n–26)) with less rounded apex and more oblique termen, compared to *M. trigona* (wingspan 27–32 mm, (n–12)) which has deep yellow forewing pattern elements and orange yellow hindwings with four wide dark radial stripes (sometimes the entire wing is unicolorously darkened). The male genitalia of the new species (Fig. 4) are distinguished by the narrow uncus and the rounded apex of its crab claw-like valva with large, rather slender saccular lobe, whereas *M. trigona* (Fig. 4) is characterized by its significantly wider based uncus, and the longer, narrower valva with a pointed tip and broader, more lobate sacculus.

The forewings pattern of *M. kautti* resembles that of *Fangarctia zhongtiao* (Fang et Cao, 1984) but the latter species belongs to another subtribe, Spilosomatina, and its genitalia differ significantly from those of *Micrarctia* Seitz species. *Micrarctia* male genitalia structure the most similar to related monotypical genus *Hyperborea* Grum – Grshimailo, [1900] 1899, but *H. czekanowskii* Grum – Grshimailo, [1900] 1899 differ significantly from *Micrarctia* species.

Description. Wingspan 37–41 mm (holotype 40 mm). Head and frons brown with red lateral margins; collar red, yellow at base; thorax black, tegulae yellow at base and brown in upper part; abdomen black with narrow red transversal bands; forewing ground color brown; subcostal longitudinal stripe running from base towards apex, with small subapical dent, axial longitudinal stripe joined with tornal streak; inner margin also yellow; cilia as ground color. Hindwings yellow, short narrow greyish radial stripes, sometimes with small brown-grey patches on tornus and lower part of termen; cilia as ground color. Male genitalia (Fig. 4) Uncus subconical; tegumen large, wide; juxta with bird's mouth cleft on posterior margin; valva short and wide, reaching middle of tegumen with large rounded saccular lobe. Aedeagus thick, short, slightly curved; vesica globular with scobinated medial section; subbasal diverticulum long, relatively tubular, scobinated. Female unknown.

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