

The *Cryptolechia* Zeller (Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae) of China (III): Checklist and descriptions of new species

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Abstract

Sixteen new species of *Cryptolechia* Zeller from China are described: *C. peditata* sp. n., *C. fustiformis* sp. n., *C. falsitorophanes* sp. n., *C. luniformis* sp. n., *C. rectimarginalis* sp. n., *C. rostriformis* sp. n., *C. proximiamatilis* sp. n., *C. bifoliolata* sp. n., *C. dorsoprojecta* sp. n., *C. bifida* sp. n., *C. robusta* sp. n., *C. infundibularis* sp. n., *C. similifloralis* sp. n., *C. trimaculata* sp. n., *C. sticta* sp. n., and *C. olivaria* sp. n. Photographs of the genitalia are provided, and a checklist of all described Chinese species is given.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae, *Cryptolechia*, checklist, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Cryptolechia* Zeller was proposed in 1852 with the type species, *Cryptolechia straminella* Zeller, 1852, subsequently designated by Walsingham (1912). In 1939 Gaede recorded 154 species worldwide. Turner (1947), Diakonoff (1952, 1967), and Viette (1954) reported species from Australia, Burma, and Madagascar, respectively. However, many of these species later were transferred to other oecophorid genera or other families by various authors. Clarke (1963) illustrated the dissected types of *Cryptolechia* described by Meyrick deposited in The Natural History Museum (formerly the British Museum of Natural History), which greatly facilitated the study of the genus. Wang (2003, 2004) added 26 Chinese species to the world fauna. To date, the genus comprises nearly 200 species worldwide.

Cryptolechia is characterized by a broadly lanceolate forewing, a highly variable uncus and valva, the absence of the gnathos, and a basally sclerotized ductus bursae. It is similar to *Periacma* Meyrick in forewing shape, but differs from the latter mainly by its three-segmented labial palpus in the male and the absence of the gnathos in the male genitalia. Larvae of the genus feed in rolled or spun leaves or in fruit-capsules (Meyrick, 1922).

The genus is diverse in China, represented by 44 species (Meyrick, 1910, 1914, 1921, 1931, 1934a, 1934b, 1935a, 1935b, 1938; Strand, 1920; Wang, 2003, 2004). Judging from present collecting activities, a number of additional undescribed species likely will be found throughout this vast territory. Based on the present study, *Cryptolechia* may be divided into several species groups, as the genital structures vary greatly within the genus. The groups should become clearer with additional collecting and the recognition of additional species.

The present paper is the third part of a study of the genus *Cryptolechia* from China. It includes a checklist of all known species and describes 16 species as new. The type specimens of all new species are deposited in the Insect Collection, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.