

The genus *Pedioxestis* (Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae) from China, with descriptions of three new species

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Abstract

Four species of *Pedioxestis* Meyrick, 1932 are recorded from China, including three that are described as new: *P. concaviuscula*, **sp. n.**, *P. bipartita*, **sp. n.**, and *P. wuyiensis*, **sp. n.** An amended diagnosis of the genus is presented based on the new species. Photographs of the adults and genitalia of the Chinese species are provided, along with a key to the world species.

Key Words: Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae, *Pedioxestis*, new species, China

Introduction

Pedioxestis was established in the “Gelechiadae” by Meyrick (1932) with *P. isomorpha* Meyrick as the type. It was transferred to the Oecophoridae by Clarke (1955) where it currently resides despite dramatic changes in the family classification based on phylogenetic studies of the superfamily Gelechioidea by Hodges (1998) and Kaila (2004). *Pedioxestis* is a small genus comprising two known species, i.e., *P. isomorpha* Meyrick, 1932 from Japan, the female genitalia of which were illustrated by Clarke (1963); and *P. ferruginea* Wang & Zheng, 2000 from China. Known members of the genus are uniform in color and superficially similar, sharing the following characters: third segment of labial palpus as long as second, male gnathos somewhat tongue-shaped, and female ostium bursae well developed. Based on the examination of specimens collected throughout China, I describe three new species and amend the generic definition accordingly.

Adult specimens were collected by light traps in the mountainous areas in Fujian, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, and Shaanxi provinces, China. External characters of adults were examined using an Olympus SZX9 stereo-microscope (maximum magnification 228×). Color was recorded by observing the whole specimens illuminated with cold and white light. Permanent slides of wings and genitalia were mounted in Canada balsam following