

Redescription of the type specimens of the *Elachista freyerella* species-group (Lepidoptera: Elachistidae: Elachistinae) from India and Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Five species of the *Elachista freyerella* species-group from India and Sri Lanka are redescribed based on their types; their genitalia are figured for the first time.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Elachistidae, *Elachista freyerella* species-group, types, India, Sri Lanka

Introduction

According to Kaila (1999b) the *Elachista freyerella* species-group represents a monophyletic lineage within the genus *Elachista*. In contrast, it was treated as equivalent to the genus *Cosmiotes* Clemens, 1860 in some earlier classifications (Braun, 1948; Traugott-Olsen & Nielsen, 1977; Parenti & Varalda, 2003). In the structure of the male genitalia, members of the group are diagnosed by the following: unique, claw-like uncus lobes; sacculus with a prominent distal spine (except for *E. consortella*); juxta with short lobes and a median plate posteriorly dilated as a large sac; and aedeagus long and slender, caecum with a triangular lobe dorsally. The female genitalia are diagnosed by the following: segment VIII narrow; antrum large, posteriorly with a median sinus; inception of ductus seminalis near corpus bursae; and anterior margin of segment VII strongly sclerotized.

The species of the *Elachista freyerella* species-group are generally homogeneous, often with only slight differences in the male and female genitalia. The species are most reliably diagnosed by the shape of the aedeagus and by some features of the female antrum and signum.

The *Elachista freyerella* species-group currently includes about 34 described species