



## ***Asuroides*, a new genus of lithosiine moths (Lepidoptera, Arctiidae, Lithosiinae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new lithosiine genus, *Asuroides*, is erected with *Setina sagenaria* Wallengren, 1860 designated as the type species. The following are also described: *Asuroides calimerae*, **n. sp.**; *A. dimidiata*, **n. sp.**; *A. fasciata*, **n. sp.**; *A. retromaculata*, **n. sp.**; *A. rosea*, **n. sp.**; *A. rubea*, **n. sp.**; and *A. similis*, **n. sp.** The species *Asura atricraspeda* is also transferred to *Asuroides* as a new combination, and a lectotype for it is designated. Differences between *Asura* Walker, 1854 and *Asuroides* are discussed, and a key to the species of *Asuroides* is presented.

**Key words:** *Asura*, *Setina sagenaria*, new species, revision, diagnosis, Afrotropical region

### **Riassunto**

Si descrive un nuovo genere di Lithosiinae, *Asuroides*, di cui *Setina sagenaria* Wallengren, 1860 è designata quale specie tipo. Sono inoltre descritte le seguenti specie: *Asuroides calimerae*, **n. sp.**; *A. dimidiata*, **n. sp.**; *A. fasciata*, **n. sp.**; *A. retromaculata*, **n. sp.**; *A. rosea*, **n. sp.**; *A. rubea*, **n. sp.**; *A. similis*, **n. sp.** La specie *Asura atricraspeda* viene trasferita in *Asuroides* come nova combinatio ed è designato il lectotipo. Si forniscono i caratteri differenziali tra *Asura* Walker, 1854 e *Asuroides* e le chiavi dicotomiche delle specie di *Asuroides*.

### **Introduction**

The genus *Asura* Walker, 1854 (type species *Asura cervicalis* Walker, 1854, from Australia) consists of relatively poorly known arctiid species that are widely distributed across the Afrotropical, Oriental and Australian regions. There are few specimens of *Asura* represented in institutional collections, and many of these were collected no more recently than several decades ago. The genus has not been comprehensively reviewed for some time (e.g., treatments are similar in Hampson 1900; Strand 1922; Seitz 1943). However, Holloway (2001), in his work on the Bornean Lithosiinae, pointed out differences in the wing pattern and genitalia among the species of *Asura* inhabiting different geographic regions, and proposed restricting usage of *Asura* to the Australian taxa. In this paper, morphological characteristics of some of the African *Asura* species are examined in further detail, and these species are considered distinct and placed in a new genus *Asuroides* Durante.

### **Material and methods**

Male and female genitalia were cleared in 10% warm sodium hydroxide solution for usually not more than 20 minutes, and subsequently rinsed in 20% ethanol and stained with a 10% solution of Chlorazol Black in 70%