



A review of the genus *Ephysteris* Meyrick, 1908 from China, with descriptions of two new species (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)

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Abstract

Six Chinese species of the genus *Ephysteris* Meyrick are reviewed. *Ephysteris montana* **sp. nov.** is described from Sichuan and *E. wenquana* **sp. nov.** is described from Yunnan. Hitherto unknown male of *E. subovata* Povolný, 2001 and unknown female of *E. flavida* Povolný, 1969 are described. Descriptions and a key for all species are provided, with illustration of the adults, male and female genitalia.

Key words: Gelechiidae, *Ephysteris*, new species, new records, China

Introduction

The genus *Ephysteris* Meyrick, 1908, comprises more than 60 predominately Old World species. About 30 Palaearctic species are distributed mainly in the Mediterranean zone of Europe and in the arid and mountainous regions of Central and Eastern Asia. Within the Gnorimoschemini Povolný, *Ephysteris* is closely related to *Vladimirea* Povolný, but differs in having a narrower tegumen, relatively short valva and often more or less modified segment VIII in the male genitalia. The female genitalia are characterized by the subtriangular signum with distinctly prolonged apices in combination with the usually long sclerotized posterior portion of ductus bursae. Both or one of the sexes of some *Ephysteris* species can be brachypterous.

Most Palaearctic species of this genus constitute a quite homogenous group and they were united in the subgenus *Microcraspedus* Janse, 1958 (= *Opacopsis* Povolný, 1964) (Povolný 1964, 1966). Two species, *E. promptella* Staudinger and *E. subdiminutella* Stainton, which are slightly distinct morphologically, were treated as members of separate monotypic subgenera, *Ephysteris* Meyrick (*E. promptella* Staudinger), and *Ochrodia* Povolný, 1966 (*O. subdiminutella* Stainton). Later Povolný (1989, 2002) raised the rank of these three subgenera to genera, but his opinion was not generally accepted (Karsholt & Sattler 1998). We follow these authors treating *Microcraspedus* and *Ochrodia* as subgenera of *Ephysteris*.

Ephysteris species have never been recorded for China. Only recently the first member of this genus, *E. subovata* Povolný, was recorded from the northern part of the country (Ponomarenko *et al.* 2006). In the course of our study of extensive material, which is deposited in the Insect collection of Nankai University (Tianjin, China), six species were recognized in the Chinese fauna. Two species are described as new, and hitherto unknown male and female were found for two species.

Type material is deposited in the Insect collection of Nankai University, Tianjin, China (NKU), some paratypes in Zoological Museum, Kiev National Taras Shevchenko University Kiev, Ukraine (ZMKU).