



A revision of the subfamily Araeopteroninae Fibiger, 2005 in the Russian Far East and neighbouring countries with a description of four new species (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

MICHAEL FIBIGER¹ & VLADIMIR KONONENKO²

¹Molbechs Allé 494180 Sorø, Denmark. E-mail: michael.fibiger@gmail.com

²Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Vladivostok, RF 690022. E-mail: kononenko@ibss.dvo.ru

Abstract

The subfamily Araeopteroninae Fibiger, 2005 from the Russian Far East and neighbouring countries is revised. Six species occur in Russia, three of which are new: *A. ussurica* sp. n., *A. makikoeae* sp. n. and *A. patella* sp. n.; *A. fragmenta* and *A. nebulosa* are reported for the first time for Russia. In South Korea five species occur, two of which are new: *A. patella* sp. n. and *A. koreana* sp. n. Three species, *A. amoena*, *A. nebulosa*, and *A. fragmenta* are reported for the first time from China. The formerly described Far Eastern species (*A. amoena*, *A. nebulosa*, *A. fragmenta* and *A. flaccida*) are redescribed based on morphological characters. Adultss of all species from northern East Asia treated in the article are illustrated in color with their male and female genitalia. Distribution maps of the species in the Russian Far East are presented, along with an alphabetic checklist of 36 described species.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Araeopteroninae, *Araeopteron*, new species, Russian Far East, Korea, China, Japan

Introduction

The genus *Araeopteron* (type species *Araeopteron pictale* Hampson, 1893, from Sri Lanka) was described by Hampson (1893) for extremely small noctuidae moths comprising a compact group of morphologically similar species. The main features of the genus are: small size; wing shape (long, narrow, pointed forewing and short rounded hindwing); wing maculation; uniform and simplified structure of male genitalia; and the characteristic shape of the signum in female genitalia (see under family description). Hampson (1893) attributed *Araeopteron* to the subfamily Erastrinae (*sensu* Hampson; = Acontiinae *sensu auctorum*). Subsequently, 29 species were described mainly from tropical and subtropical regions of the Old and New World. Recently 6 new species of *Araeopteron* were described from Yemen (Fibiger & Hacker 2001), one species from Sumatra (Fibiger 2002), and one species has been found in southern Europe (Fibiger & Agassiz 2001). The genus *Araeopteron* was designated as type-genus for the new quadrifine subfamily Araeopteroninae Fibiger, 2005 (in Fibiger & Lafontaine 2005). More species of the *Araeopteron* have been collected or found in museum collections, recorded mainly from East Asia, Oriental region, and Africa.

In the East Palaearctic, the genus *Araeopteron* was first discovered by Inoue (1958, 1965), who described five species from Japan in the subfamily Acontiinae (*sensu auctorum*): *A. amoena*, *A. nebulosa*, *A. fragmenta*, *A. flaccida*, and *A. kurokoi*, which were all considered as endemics until fairly recently. Viidalepp & Remm (1982) first reported *Araeopteron amoena* for Russia from the Primorye and Khabarovsk territories and south Sakhalin. Kononenko (1990, 2003, 2005) listed only *A. amoena* from the Russian Far East. Four species (*A. amoena*, *A. nebulosa*, *A. fragmenta* and *A. flaccida*) were discovered from the Korean peninsula (Kononenko