Microlepidoptera of Hong Kong: Oecophoridae I: the genus Promalactis Meyrick

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Abstract

Ten species of the genus Promalactis Meyrick, 1908 are reported based on the specimens collected from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Seven of them are described as new: P. quinilineata sp. nov., P. similinfulata sp. nov., P. noviloba sp. nov., P. longiuncata sp. nov., P. biovata sp. nov., P. lobatifera sp. nov. and P. apicispinifera sp. nov. Images of the adults and genitalia are provided.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae, Promalactis, new species, China

Introduction

Promalactis was established by Meyrick in 1908 with P. holozona Meyrick, 1908 as the type species. It is a large genus consisting of over one hundred described species worldwide. Most of the known species are distributed in the Palaeartic and Oriental regions except for five described from South Africa. The most recent study of the genus are made by Lvovsky (1985, 1986, 1988, 1997, 2000) from Russia and southeast Asia, Park (1998) from Korea, Fujisawa from Japan (2002) and Wang (2006) from China. Seventy-two species were recorded in China prior to 2007, of which Wang & Zheng (1997, 1998), Wang et al. (2000, 2001), Wang & Li (2004) and Wang (2006) described 55 species as new. However, only two species have hitherto been recognized, and a third misidentified as a Cosmopterigidae, from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Kendrick 2003).

This paper deals with ten species of Promalactis based on the specimens collected in the New Territories of the HKSAR during a survey of Microlepidoptera conducted in April 2007, as well as additional specimens and further observation by the second author from 1997 and M. J. Sterling from 1999 to 2004 throughout the HKSAR. Sites are listed in Table 1. The type specimens, unless otherwise stated, are deposited in the Insect Collection, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

Abbreviations used:

BMNH The Natural History Museum, London (formerly the British Museum (Natural History))
HKSAR Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
KARC Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre (renamed The Kadoorie Institute - Shek Kong Centre in 2008)
KFBG Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden
NT New Territories
leg. collector