

Article



Key to the genera of Oxyptilini (Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae: Pterophorinae), with descriptions of two new genera

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Abstract

Apoxyptilus, gen. nov., and Pseudoxyptilus, gen. nov., are described and illustrated, with Oxyptilus anthites Meyrick, 1936, and Oxyptilus secutor Meyrick, 1911, as their type-species, respectively. Apoxyptilus anthites (Meyrick), comb. nov., and Pseudoxyptilus secutor (Meyrick), comb. nov., are redescribed. An illustrated key to the genera of the tribe Oxyptilini is provided.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae, Pterophorinae, Oxyptilini, new genera, new combinations, identification key

Introduction

Pterophoridae are a well-defined family of microlepidoptera characterized by deeply cleft wings in most species, a T-shaped resting posture of adults, and venous scales on the underside of the hindwing (Gielis 1993). The family is worldwide in distribution and includes approximately 1,189 described species assigned to 90 genera and four subfamilies (Gielis 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009; Arenberger 2006; Alipanah & Ustjuzhanin 2005, 2006; Altermatt 2008, Gielis & Karsholt 2009). The largest subfamily, Pterophorinae, presently is divided into six tribes, i.e., Tetraschalini, Platyptiliini, Exelastini, Oxyptilini, Oidaematophorini, and Pterophorini (Gielis 2003).

As previously defined, Oxyptilini is represented by 15 genera and 113 described species (Zagulajev 2002; Gielis 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009; Arenberger 2006). Alipanah et al. (in press) recently transferred Antarches from Exelastini to Oxyptilini and confirmed the assignment of Sphenarches to Oxyptilini as proposed by Arenberger (2002). They also revealed that only five species of the many species currently assigned to Oxyptilus, i.e., O. pilosellae (Zeller), O. parvidactyla (Haworth), O. chrysodactyla ([Denis & Schiffermüller]), O. ericetorum (Stainton), and O. delawaricus Zeller, are similar to each other (and the type species of the genus) in both external and genitalia characteristics. These species, which were found to represent a sister group to Crombrugghia spp., were assumed to be the only species correctly assigned to Oxyptilus, and they are the only ones considered as such in the key presented below. Alipanah et al. (in press) concluded that the total number of described species in Oxyptilini is 118. The monophyly of the tribe is supported by the presence of symmetrical valvae in the male genitalia, the presence of two longitudinal rows of venous scales on the underside of the hindwing, an extension of the venulae of sternite II to the end of the sternite in the male abdomen, and the presence of an inverse, nearly V-shaped sclerotized structure at the distal half of sternite II in the male (Alipanah et al. in press).

There have been few published generic keys to Pterophoridae. In the first, provided by Meyrick (1886), subfamilies were not recognized. Meyrick (1886) classified the family into 16 genera that were mostly assigned to subfamilies during the second half of the 19th century. Meyrick's classification was based mainly on the fore- and hindwing characteristics including venation. A similar key, presented by Fletcher (1909),