



## *Bireta morozovi*, a new species (Lepidoptera, Notodontidae) from China

AIDAS SALDAITIS<sup>1</sup>, POVILAS IVINSKIS<sup>2</sup> & JOLANTA RIMSAITE<sup>3</sup>

Nature Research Centre, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius-21, Lithuania.

E-mail: <sup>1</sup> saldrasa@gmail.com; <sup>2</sup> ivinskis@ekoi.lt; <sup>3</sup> jolanta@ekoi.lt

Over 30 species of the genus *Bireta* (Schintlmeister, 2008) are known from the Palearctic and neighbouring regions of Southeast Asia. Individual species of this genus are externally similar, but can be separated by characters of the male genitalia. *Bireta* are mostly distributed throughout Southeast Asia, especially China (Kiriakoff, 1962; Kobayashi & Kishida, 2004; Kobayashi, Kishida & Min, 2008; Schintlmeister & Fang, 2001) and Thailand (Schintlmeister, 2007). In Sichuan Province, China in the spring of 2010, the senior author collected a series of *Bireta* specimens which belongs to a new species, which is described below (acronyms for personal and institutional collections: AFM—Alessandro Floriani [Milan, Italy]; ASV—Aidas Saldaitis [Vilnius, Lithuania]; MWM/ZSM—Museum Thomas Witt [Munich, Germany]/Zoologische Staatssammlung, München [Germany]; NRCV—Nature Research Centre [Vilnius, Lithuania]; PMM—Pavel Morozov [Moscow, Russia]).

### *Bireta* Walker, 1856

*Bireta* Walker, 1856, List of specimens of Lepidopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum 6:1258-507, Edward Newman, London. Type species: *Bireta longivitta* Walker, 1856.

*Menapia* Walker, 1865 (*Menapia xanthophila* Walker, 1865 [= *Bireta longivitta* Walker, 1856])

The genus *Bireta* includes over 30 species, many of which were previously erroneously attributed to the genus *Torigea* Matsumura 1934, that are distributed in Southeast Asia and are best distinguished by male genitalia. Forewings are predominantly yellow, sometimes with an orange brown tint, and contain a small median spot. The basal line extending from the apex to the base of the forewings is brown or silver. *Bireta* male antennae are long and bipectinate whereas female antennae are simple and filiform. The male genitalia possesses a short and undivided uncus with a pair of large socii. Sternite VIII is highly modified and the tegumen is massive and robust compared to relatively small valves. The female genitalia have a characteristic round signum.

### *Bireta morozovi* Saldaitis & Ivinskis sp. n.

(Figs. 1–4)

**Holotype:** male (Fig. 1), China, W Sichuan, road Menghugang/Kangding, N 29°49.955, E 102°02.827, 12.04.2010. h–3000 m, leg. A. Saldaitis (deposited in MWM/ZSM); (slide No. BJ 1531)

**Paratypes:** 4 males (Figs. 3, 4), with the same labels as holotype, 1 female, China, W Sichuan, Kangding, near Zheduo Pass, N 30°17.022, E 101°50.256, 13.04.2010. h–3230 m, leg. A. Saldaitis (coll. AFM; ASV; MWM; PMM). Slide No. BJ 1530 (female)

**Diagnosis.** *Bireta morozovi* is the sibling species of *Bireta astrae* (Schintlmeister & Fang, 2001) (Fig. 5), but differs by a number of external and genital features and by its distribution. Compared to the new species, *B. astrae* has a longer and a more prominent silvery basal line, a more pronounced oval reniform spot, and pure white rather than grey-yellow hindwings. *Bireta astrae*, *B. ortharga* (Wu & Fang, 2003) and the newly-described species represent closely related group of species characterised by typical rectangular-shaped robust socii. The base of socii in the new species, however, is visibly wider than in *B. ortharga*, and the apex of socii is widening and obtuse, whereas the apices of socii in *B. astrae* and *B. ortharga* are tapering. The uncus in both *B. astrae* and *B. morozovi* is similarly shaped but in the new species it is considerably longer and is of the same width throughout. *Bireta astrae* is endemic to the Shaanxi Province, whereas the