



Twelve new species of *Athetis* Hübner, [1821] 1816 from China (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

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Abstract

Twelve new species of the genus *Athetis* Hübner, [1821] 1816 sensu stricto (Noctuidae, Noctuidae, Caradrinini, Athetiina) (*A. hoengshana* sp. n., *A. simplex* sp. n., *A. orthosioides* sp. n., *A. eupsilioides* sp. n., *A. tridentata* sp. n., *A. linzhi* sp. n., *A. flavicolor* sp. n., *A. biserrata* sp. n., *A. minivalva* sp. n., *A. longiharpe* sp. n., *A. bicornuta* sp. n., *A. furcatula* sp. n.) are described from China. All new species are illustrated with imagines, and with male and female genitalia.

Key words. Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Noctuinae, Caradrinini, Athetiina, *Athetis*, new species, China

Introduction

In the course of biodiversity surveys on the noctuids of China, presently being conducted by the North East Forestry University and through the examination of Chinese collections in ZFMK (notably the Höne collection) a number of undescribed noctuid species have come to light. The aim of this paper is to describe and name twelve new species of the genus *Athetis* Hübner, [1821] 1816, that are found in old collections as well in recently collected Chinese samples.

The genus *Athetis* belongs to the subtribe Athetiina, erected by Fibiger & Lafontaine (2005) in the tribe Caradrinini, of the subfamily Xyleninae (currently subfamily Noctuinae). Globally it comprises over 200 species (Poole 1989); in Eurasia most species are mainly distributed in the southern Palaearctic and Oriental regions, with a center of diversity in Western China and the Himalayan region; 6 species are known from the Nearctic. The genus is characterized by a well defined synapomorphy – a missing or in some cases vestigial uncus. This character state occurs also in the genus *Nola* Leach, 1815 (Nolidae, Nolini), in all Micronoctuini (Erebidae, Hypenodinae) and in a few genera of Noctuidae (*Karana* Moore, 1882, Noctuinae, and *Stenoloba* Staudinger, 1892, Bryophilinae).

Fibiger & Lafontaine (2005) and Fibiger & Hacker (2005) divided Holarctic and European *Athetis* into the genera *Athetis*, *Hydrillula* Tams, 1938, and *Proxenus* Herrich-Schäffer, [1850]. Taking into account the great number of species represented by several species groups, and before the basic revision of the genus we consider *Athetis* (sensu stricto) as monophyletic. The Japanese species of *Athetis* have been revised and described by Sugi (1969, 1982), and the Korean species were illustrated with imagines and genitalia by Kononenko *et al.* (1998) and Kononenko & Han (2008). Several new species from Nepal have been described by Yoshimoto (1994), and from China by Galsworthy (1977), Hreblay *et al.* (1998), Kononenko (2005a, 2005b, 2005c) and Han & Li (2008). However, the genus requires taxonomic revision.

Material and methods

The article is based on the institutional collections of Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, and other