



Taxonomic remarks on *Andraca* Walker, 1865 (Lepidoptera: Bombycidae) with descriptions of five new species

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Abstract

The genus *Andraca* Walker, 1865, is divided into two subgenera, one of them new: *Chrypathemola* Zolt., **subgen. nov.** (type species *Andraca apodecta* Swinhoe, 1907). The following new species are described: *Andraca draco*, **sp. nov.** (from Java); *Andraca lawa*, **sp. nov.** (from Palawan), *Andraca paradisea*, **sp. nov.** (from Philippines), *Andraca chrysocollis*, **sp. nov.** (from Philippines) and *Andraca (Chrypathemola) nobilorum*, **sp. nov.** (from Vietnam). A male lectotype for *Andraca bipunctata* Walker, 1865 is designated from the collection of ZMHU; this designation led to the new synonymy: *Andraca bipunctata* Walker, 1865 = *Andraca angulata* Kishida, 1993, **syn. nov.** The systematics of the family Bombycidae is briefly discussed.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Bombycidae, Oberthuerinae, *Andraca*, new species, new synonymy, taxonomy

Introduction

This article describes new species and taxonomic arrangements in the bombycid genus *Andraca* Walker, 1865. The members of the genus *Andraca* are of non-bombycid external appearance—with broad and short wings, mostly with apex pointed to falcate, with a characteristic tuft of scales on the anal margin of the hind wing (a character typical for the Bombycidae, s. lat., and formerly treated as an autapomorphy of the family). The genus was established in Bombycidae, transferred to the Notodontidae by van Eecke (1921, *Tijdschr. Ent.* 64: xiix), transferred to the Eupterotidae by Kiriakoff (1968, in Wytsman, *Genera Insect.* 217C: 2) and again returned to the Bombycidae by Holloway (1987). Morphologically the genus appears related to *Oberthueria* Staudinger, 1892, and therefore should be considered within the subfamily Oberthuerinae Kuznetsov & Stekolnikov, 1985. At present, the genus comprises 16 names, but only 10 represent valid species; another 5 new species are described herein.

One problem is the identification of the type species of the genus (see Zolotuhin & Witt, 2009 also), *Andraca bipunctata* Walker, 1865. This taxon was described by Walker (1865: 582) after a male from “Hindostan,” probably from northern India. Until now, it has remained largely unknown to most lepidopterists and this has resulted in mistakes in identification of the species. The misidentification probably originated with Hampson (1892), where he figured a male *Andraca trilochoides* under the name *bipunctata* (loc. cit.: 40, fig. 23) with comments: “The form *trilochoides* is rather brighter, with more grey suffusion on fore wing”. This statement led to confusion: *bipunctata* sensu A. Seitz (1907: pl. 57, row f) is *trilochoides* Moore, sensu Miyata (1970) is *theae* Matsumura, sensu Kishida (1993) is *trilochoides* and sensu Chu et Wang (1996) is *melli* Zolotuhin & Witt, 2009. A clear diagnosis for the species was given by Walker (1865) in the generic diagnosis of *Andraca*. Considering that the genus was initially erected for the single included species, this generic diagnosis should also be treated for the type species. The original description of *bipunctata* reads (Walker, 1865: 582): “... Hind wings broad ... exterior border **acutely angular in the middle**, very slightly festooned in front, distinctly festooned hindward; interior border somewhat truncate ...”. The syntypes were for a long time considered to be absent from BMNH (M. Honey and G. Martin, pers. comm.), probably lost, and were not found in other European museums. Walker (1865: 582) stated: “Hindostan. In Mr. Atkinson’s Collection,” and four male specimens from Atkinson’s collection have been found in the Zoological Museum of Humboldt University (ZMHU). I regard these as available syntypes, and designate one as lectotype below.