



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:620DE2F0-92C4-4523-8472-38B95FC5DC85

The genus *Afrasura* Durante, 2009 in Gabon, with description of five new species and a new species group (Erebidae: Arctiinae: Lithosiini)

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Abstract

The author presents the first work on two surveys in the National Park of Ivindo in Gabon. He examines the genus *Afrasura* Durante, 2009, describes the female of *A. emma* Durante, 2009, and five new species: *A. trunca* sp. n., *A. camilla* sp. n., *A. duplex* sp. n., *A. aetheria* sp. n., *A. fracta* sp. n., of which the last four belong to the newly proposed *A. submarmorata* species group.

Key words: genus *Afrasura*, *A. submarmorata* species group, new species, Afrotropical Region

Riassunto

L'autore presenta il primo lavoro relativo a due sopralluoghi effettuati nel Parco nazionale dell'Ivindo in Gabon. Esamina il genere *Afrasura* Durante, 2009, descrive la femmina di *A. emma* Durante, 2009 e cinque specie nuove per la scienza: *A. trunca* sp. n., *A. camilla* sp. n., *A. duplex* sp. n., *A. aetheria* sp. n., *A. fracta* sp. n., di cui le ultime quattro appartengono al gruppo specie *A. submarmorata*, qui proposto.

Introduction

This paper examines biodiversity of Gabonese lithosiine moths (Erebidae: Arctiinae) based on recent surveys (for discussion of higher taxonomic placement see Fibiger & Lafontaine 2005; Lafontaine & Fibiger 2006; Mitchell et al. 2006; Conner 2009; Zahiri *et al.* 2010 2011). The two lithosiine surveys in question were of the National Park of Ivindo, North-East Gabon, in 2010 and 2011. Within that survey material there are unplaceable and likely new lithosiine taxa, and at present only several genera are under close study, one of which is *Afrasura* Durante, 2009. This genus includes 19 species (Durante 2009) and is widespread throughout South-Saharan Africa, although absent from Madagascar (De Toulgoët, 1984; Viette, 1990). (*Asura vadoni* Toulgoët, 1953 is correctly transferred by its author to a new genus: *Proxhyle* Toulgoët, 1959; *Miltochrista clara* Holland, 1893, listed under *Afrasura* online at <http://www.afromoths.net>, has been not included in the present paper because it was not checked in Durante (2009) nor in other published papers). Herein, five new species of *Afrasura* are described, four in the new *A. submarmorata* species group, which is also divided into two subgroups based on female genitalic differences.

Material and methods

All the studied material comes from two collections in the National Park of Ivindo, made from February to April. This park lies in the northeast of Gabon at about 500 m. It has an extent of 300,000 ha, most of which is covered by primary forest, and is drained by various watercourses, the largest of which are the rivers Ivindo, Djidji and Langoué (Vande Weghe 2006). Around the Ipassa Research Station, the place of moth captures in the far north of the park, the forest is somewhat degraded with residual primary forest, old and young secondary forest, and bush