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The Acentropinae (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae) of Africa

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Abstract

The species of Acentropinae recorded from Africa are listed and described with illustrations of the adults and genitalia. Ten new synonymies are established. The following species are described new to science: *Paraponyx zambiensis*, *Argyrophorodes angolensis*, *A. suttoni*, *Elophila acornutus*, *E. ealensis*, *E. minima*, *Nymphicula hexaxantha*, *Eoophyla belladotae*, *E. cameroonensis*, *E. carcassoni*, *E. citrialis*, *E. dentisigna*, *E. euprepialis*, *E. grandifuscalis*, *E. interopalis*, *E. kingstoni*, *E. piscatorum*, *E. platyxantha*, *E. principensis*, *E. ruwenzoriensis*, *E. stepheni*, *E. tanzanica*. *E. nyasalis kenyalis* is described as a new subspecies.

Key words: Acentropinae, Africa, new species, Lepidoptera

Introduction

Acentropinae, formerly known as Nymphulinae, are attractive moths which have received considerable attention in recent years. This has been chiefly within certain geographical areas. Lange (1956) published an important paper on the family in the Nearctic Region, which was largely accepted and built upon by Munroe (1972). Speidel (1984) produced a revision of species from the Palaearctic Region. Yoshiyasu (1985) published an important study of the Japanese species, and this was followed in 1987 by his work on the family in Thailand. Speidel & Mey (1999) published a checklist of species in the Oriental Region. European species were treated by Speidel (2005). Until now there has been no comprehensive work on the African fauna.

Area covered

This study covers the whole of the African mainland, together with islands in the Gulf of Guinea, but not other Atlantic islands, nor Madagascar, Mauritius, the Comoros and associated islands.

The majority of Acentropinae are aquatic in the larval stage, and since Africa is a comparatively dry continent, there are many fewer species than in other tropical areas. In the Neotropical Region 248 species were listed by Munroe in Heppner (1995). In the Oriental Region Speidel & Mey (1999) listed 183 species, but a great many more occur in New Guinea and other parts of the Indo-Pacific & Australasian Region. In Africa merely 58 species are detailed in this paper (including four which belong to the Palaearctic Region). Twenty-two of these are described as new species. Several other species have been found but not described until further material is available for study. Some of these are illustrated on Plate 11.

The composition of the family is generally agreed among taxonomists. Hampson (1897) included a much wider range of genera in his Hydrocampinae, but the revisers listed above steadily removed those which belong in other sub-families. Speidel (1981) showed that *Acentria* Stephens, which had formerly been placed in the Schoenobiinae, belonged to the Nymphulinae, but since Acentropinae was the senior name it took precedence.