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Pacificulla gen. nov. of Lecithoceridae (Lepidoptera, Gelechioidea) from New Guinea, with descriptions of six new species

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Abstract

Pacificulla Park, **gen. nov.** related to *Crocantnes* Meyrick is described from New Guinea, based on the type species *P. flaviagra* Park, **sp. nov.** Five additional species are described: *P. esdiparki* Park, **sp. nov.**, *P. searsi* Park, **sp. nov.**, *P. callisomata* Park, **sp. nov.**, *P. cervicalis* Park, **sp. nov.**, and *P. kekamatana* Park, **sp. nov.** The following six new combinations are proposed, the species of which were formerly included in *Crocantnes*: *Pacificulla thrasydora* (Meyrick, 1910), **comb. nov.**; *P. philotima* (Diakonoff, 1954), **comb. nov.**; *P. miltina* (Durrant, 1915), **comb. nov.**; *P. ignigera* (Meyrick, 1938), **comb. nov.**; *P. zonias* (Meyrick, 1904), **comb. nov.**; and *P. geniola* (Meyrick, 1931), **comb. nov.** *C. xanthorrhoea* Diakonoff is synonymized with *P. philotima* (Diakonoff). The upper surface of adults, labial palpi, and genitalia of all described species are illustrated, including the wing venation of two representative species.

Key words: Lecithoceridae, new genus, new species, new combinations, *Pacificulla*

Introduction

Crocantnes Meyrick (Lepidoptera, Gelechioidea, Lecithoceridae) is a tropical genus, comprising more than 60 described species (Meyrick 1925; Diakonoff 1954; Common 1996; Park 2011). It is known primarily from northeastern Australia and New Guinea. Most species of the genus is easily distinguished from others members of the family Lecithoceridae by having brightly colored wings and the male genitalia lacking a gnathos. Since the genus was established by Meyrick (1886), based on *Crocantnes prasinopis* Meyrick, no comprehensive study of the group has been published. Moreover, no attempt has been made to place the genus into any of the three known subfamilies (Ceuthomadarinae, Lecithocerinae, and Torodorinae) of Lecithoceridae, which were proposed by Gozmány (1978). Park (2011) recently reviewed the *Crocantnes pancala* species-complex in New Guinea and Australia, describing an additional four new species, but the generic status of the group was not confirmed. The relationship of the genus to several groups that are morphologically similar will be examined in forthcoming studies.

In this study, *Pacificulla* Park, **gen. nov.** is proposed and assigned to Lecithoceridae on the basis of the following apomorphic characters of the family: 1) antenna longer than forewing, 2) gnathos absent. The new genus is superficially separable from *Crocantnes* by the following: the similarly colored pattern on both wings; the forewing usually with an orange patch medially as well as with R₂ and R₃₊₄ stalked; sexual dimorphic labial palpi (the third segment is reduced or absent in the male); and the valva of male genitalia normally elongate with the cucullus densely covered with strong bristles.