



Notes on *Dichomeris* Hübner, 1818 from Southern Africa and Kenya, with description of seven new species (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae, Dichomeridinae)

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Abstract

This paper deals with 12 species of the genus *Dichomeris* Hübner, 1818 from Southern Africa and Kenya. Seven species are described as new: *D. arquata* sp. nov., *D. brevicornuta* sp. nov., *D. dentata* sp. nov., *D. ligulacea* sp. nov., *D. paulidigitata* sp. nov., *D. tenextrema* sp. nov. and *D. ventriprojecta* sp. nov.; and other five known species are listed. Images of adults and illustrations of genitalia are provided.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae, Dichomeridinae, *Dichomeris*, new species, Africa

Introduction

Dichomeris is one of the largest genera in the family Gelechiidae, comprising more than one thousand species in the world. Hodges (1986) proposed 81 synonymies of *Dichomeris* and reported 74 species occurring in America North of Mexico. He also pointed out that *Dichomeris* could be separated from other genera in Dichomeridinae by having a special juxta (= sicae) in the male genitalia.

Gaede (1937) recorded 18 species from Africa. Janse (1949–1954) described 24 species occurring in South Africa, some of which were placed in other different genera. Ghesquière (1940) mentioned four species in four different genera occurring in Congo: *Cymotricha leontovitchi*, *Gaesa pammiges*, *Trichotaphe phaeothina* and *Prasodryas opalina*; these four species are now regarded as belonging to *Dichomeris*, as the above four genera have been synonymized with *Dichomeris* (Hodges 1986). Vári & Kroon (1986) recorded 59 species from South Africa, including 34 species transferred from the genus *Trichotaphe*. Ponomarenko (2009) reviewed Dichomeridinae of the world and provided a catalogue of this subfamily. To date, 106 species have been reported to occur in Africa following 81 synonymies listed by Hodges (1986). In the present paper, we report 12 species from Southern Africa and Kenya based on the specimens deposited in the Museum für Naturkunde (MfN), Leibniz Institute at Humboldt Universität, Berlin, and in the Insect Collection of Nankai University (NKUM), Tianjin, China.

Material and Methods

The present study is based on the examination of specimens collected by the first author from Kenya, which are deposited in the Insect Collection of Nankai University, Tianjin, China, and the specimens collected from Southern Africa mostly by W. Mey, which are deposited in the Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz Institute at Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany. Terminology follows Hodges (1986). External characters of adults were examined using an Olympus SZX7 stereo-microscope, with measurement in millimeter. Methods of the genitalia dissection follow Li (2002). Images of the adults are taken with a Nikon D300, which is equipped with a Nikon AF-S VR Micro-Nikkor 105 mm f/2.8G IF-ED lens, and images of the genitalia are prepared with an Olympus C-7070 digital camera. The type specimens are respectively deposited in the Insect Collection of Nankai University (NKUM), Tianjin, China, and in the Museum für Naturkunde (MfN), Leibniz Institute at Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany.