



## The genus *Homaloxestis* Meyrick (Lepidoptera: Lecithoceridae) from China, with descriptions of two new species

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### Abstract

Five species of the genus *Homaloxestis* Meyrick are recorded from China. *Homaloxestis aciformis* sp. nov. from Chongqing and *H. ellipsoidea* sp. nov. from Yunnan are described as new. *Homaloxestis plocamandra* (Meyrick, 1907), *H. australis* Park, 2004 and *H. saitoi* Park, 2004 are newly recorded from China. Photographs of adults and genital structures are provided. All the known species in China are listed.

**Key words:** Lepidoptera, Lecithoceridae, *Homaloxestis*, new species, new record, China

### Introduction

*Homaloxestis* Meyrick is a relatively large genus of the subfamily Lecithocerinae. It was established by Meyrick (1910) for the type species *H. endocoma* Meyrick, 1910. Park *et al.* (2008) reviewed 46 species of *Homaloxestis* on a worldwide basis and illustrated 41 species, from which they excluded *H. cribanota* Meyrick, 1910 and *H. pancrocopa* Meyrick, 1937. Walia and Wadnawan (2010) described one new species from North India. To date, *Homaloxestis* consists of 49 species.

*Homaloxestis* is characterized by the forewing usually without any markings, sometimes having a pale orange or whitish band along the costa contrasting with the ground color; veins  $M_2$ ,  $M_3$ ,  $CuA_1$  and  $CuA_2$  separate at the base; the seventh sternite in male usually having two pairs of heavily sclerotized lateral ribs and an antero-median rod that bears apical hair-pencils (easily shed) extending into the sixth segment; the male genitalia with the valva irregularly concave on the ventral margin beyond middle, and usually having short strong spinules along margin; and the abdominal terga lacking zones of spiniform setae.

Little is known about the biology of this genus.

*Homaloxestis* is similar to *Lecithocera* Herrich-Schäffer, 1853. It can be distinguished by the separation of  $CuA_1$  and  $CuA_2$ , and the aedeagus without a sagittate apex in the male genitalia (Wu 1997).

Seventeen *Homaloxestis* species have been recorded in China (Wu 1997; Park & Byun 2007). The aim of the present paper is to describe two new species and report three unrecorded species from China. The examined specimens are deposited in the Insect Collection, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

### Taxonomy

#### *Homaloxestis* Meryick, 1910

*Homaloxestis* Meyrick 1910: 440. Type species: *H. endocoma* Meyrick, 1910. Type Locality: South India.

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