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***Armatophallus* gen. n., a new genus of gelechiid moths (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae) from the Afrotropical and Oriental regions**

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Abstract

Armatophallus, **gen. n.**, is established for six species: *A. exoenota* (Meyrick, 1918), comb. n. (ex *Gelechia*) (= *Gelechia xylophaea* Meyrick, 1921, syn. n.); *A. crudescens* (Meyrick, 1920), comb. n. (ex *Gelechia*); *A. kuehnei*, **sp. n.** (Rwanda); *A. akagericus*, **sp. n.** (Rwanda); *A. hackeri*, **sp. n.** (Yemen, Ethiopia); and *A. indicus*, **sp. n.** (India). The systematic position of the new genus is briefly discussed. A key to the species is given based on external characters and the genitalia of both sexes. Adults and genitalia of all species are illustrated.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae, new genus, new species, Afrotropical region, Oriental region

Introduction

The rich and diverse fauna of Afrotropical Gelechiidae is poorly studied, especially in comparison with the fauna of Europe, with numerous African species remaining to be described. The shortage of taxonomic revisions hampers the progress in species descriptions and regional faunistic studies.

The present contribution aims to revise a group of species of unclear position within the Gelechiidae. During an inventory of the gelechiid fauna of the Brandberg Massif in Namibia (Bidzilya 2007), I was faced with the problem of the generic assignment of *Gelechia exoenota*. In spite of differences in the genitalia characters of both sexes between *G. exoenota* and members of *Schizovalva* Janse, 1951, this species was provisionally placed in the latter genus. As a result of further studies, five additional undescribed species related to *G. exoenota* were discovered in collections from Africa, Yemen, and India. Moreover, it was found that *G. crudescens* and *G. xylophaea* also belong to this group of species. These species are characterized by a unique combination of genitalia characters which do not match any existing genus. Therefore, I consider this group as a separate genus to be described as new for six species, four of them also new. A further species from Namibia that is known from only a single male remains undescribed due to lack of sufficient material.

Material and methods

The present paper is based on material from the following collections: Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany (MFN); Ditsong National Museum of Natural History, Pretoria, South Africa (formerly Transvaal Museum) (TMSA); Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (NHM); Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway (NHMO); collection of Georg Derra, Reckendorf, Germany (Derra coll.); and David Agassiz (Agassiz coll.).

The genitalia slides were prepared according to the "unrolling technique" (Huemer 1988, Pitkin 1986). The descriptive terminology of the genitalia structures generally follows Huemer & Karsholt (1999) and Kristensen (2003).