



A new species of the genus *Sovia* (Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae) from Qinling-Daba Mountains of China

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Abstract

In this paper, a new species *Sovia lii* **spec. nov.** is described from Qinling-Daba Mountains in S. Gansu province and S. Shaanxi province, W. China. Variability of wing pattern, differences with its similar congeners and some biological information of this new taxon are introduced. External variability of *Sovia lucasii*, which is discovered from Shaanxi for the first time and is sympatric with the new species there, is illustrated and discussed. A brief analysis of the distributional pattern of the genus *Sovia* is provided. A key to the genus is given.

Key words: skipper, male genitalia, *Sovia lii*, *Sovia lucasii*, variability, distribution, fauna, taxonomy

Introduction

Sovia Evans, 1949 is an oriental genus containing 10 species, namely *S. lucasii* (Mabille) from W. Sichuan (Evans 1949; Huang 2003), *S. separata* (Moore) from W. & NW. Yunnan, SE. Tibet, NE. India, Bhutan and Sikkim (Evans 1949; Huang 2003), *S. albipectus* (de Nicéville) from S. Yunnan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam (Evans 1949; Inoué & Kawazoé 1966; Osada *et al.* 1999; Huang & Xue 2004; Ek-Amnuay 2006), *S. subflava* (Leech) from W. Sichuan and NW. Yunnan (Evans 1949; Huang & Wu 2003), *S. hyrtacus* (de Nicéville) from S. India (Evans 1949; Kehimkar 2008), *S. grahmi* (Evans) from W. Yunnan, SC. Tibet, NE. & N. India (Evans 1949; Huang 2003), *S. malta* Evans from NE. India (Evans 1949), *S. eminens* Devyatkin from N. Guangdong and N. Vietnam (Devyatkin 1996; Wang & Tang 2012), *S. fangi* Huang & Wu from NW. Yunnan (Huang & Wu 2003) and *S. ueharai* Miyazaki & Saito from SC. Vietnam (Miyazaki & Saito 2010). Species in this genus can be recognized by the following combination of characters (Evans 1949): the apiculus of antenna hooked; the origin of vein M₂ decurved and that of Cu₂ closer to cell end than to wing base; vein M₃ placed in the middle of M₂ and Cu₁ in female; a Halpe-style black stigma located from the base of space cu₁ to vein 2A on the dorsal side of forewing in male; hindwing unmarked dorsally; male genitalia with the uncus undivided, the footstalk small or vestigial. Apparently, the genus can be divided into two species groups, one is composed by *S. albipectus*, *S. hyrtacus*, *S. eminens* and *S. ueharai* and has two separated cell spots; the other one includes the remaining species and exhibits one spot across the cell.

In this study, a new species, *Sovia lii* **spec. nov.** is reported from Qinling-Daba Mountains in S. Gansu and S. Shaanxi, China. Its morphological characters and variability of wing pattern are illustrated and described based upon abundant material from different localities; differences with allied species are discussed. A sympatric congener of the new species, viz. *S. lucasii*, which was recorded from several localities in W. Sichuan, is discovered from Shaanxi for the first time, and its variability of wing pattern is illustrated and discussed. Moreover, the distributional pattern of the species of *Sovia* is mapped and briefly analyzed. A key to the genus is provided.