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Xestioplexia gen. n. with the description of a new species from China (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

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The taxonomic interpretation of the phyletic lineages of the *Xestia* s.l. generic complex is an evergreen problem of the noctuid workers. This very rich and diverse clade includes several clearly separable species-groups the relegation of which has been frequently changed during the last decades. Actually, the lumping trend dominates and the major lineages are all amalgamated into the common and giant genus *Xestia* Hübner, 1818 counting more than 300 species, which are placed in a number of subgenera. One of these subgenera is *Pachnobia* Guenée, 1852 which comprises, besides others, the species formerly placed into the genera/subgenera *Pachnobia, Anomogyna* Staudinger, *Schoyenia* Aurivillius, and *Hyptioxesta* Rebel.

The thorough supraspecific study of the genitalia of one, hitherto undescribed, externally rather *Xestia ("Anomogyna")*—like Noctuidae species from China led to the recognition of another distinct phyletic lineage within this clade. Certain features of the male clasping apparatus, particularly the distal section of the valvae and the valval processes, display surprising similarity with a group of species of the xylenine genus *Oroplexia* Hampson, 1908 (see the figures 11 and 14). Other features of the male genitalia including some parts of the genitalia capsule and the structure of the vesica, and the ostium-antrum complex of the female genitalia and particularly the main external features of adults are more similar to those of a few species of *Xestia* and *Anaplectoides* McDunnough, (see the figures 13, 15, and 17) with a number of clearly recognisable differences.

The attempts for the proper taxonomic relegation of this species led to the clarification of the taxonomic position of "*Anaplectoides*" *colorata* Corti & Draudt, (*Xestia colorata, Pachnobia colorata*) as a second member of the lineage under discussion. Finally, the authors decided to distinguish this supraspecific taxon as a genus distinct from *Xestia*, and describe it under the name *Xestioplexia* **gen.n.,** with the descriptions of a new species, *X. albicollis* **sp. n.**

The main references being related to the subject of the article and the taxonomic nomenclature used in this study are as follows: Kozhanchikov 1937; Corti & Draudt 1933; Draudt 1950; Boursin 1963; Boursin 1964; Kovács & Varga 1973; Nye 1975; Kononenko 1981; Chen 1982; ; Sugi 1982; Lafontaine & al. 1983; Kononenko & al. 1983; Kononenko 1984; Kononenko 1984; Chen 1989; Poole 1989; Fibiger 1993, 1997; Hreblay & Ronkay 1997; Hreblay & al. 1998; Lafontaine 1998; Gyulai & Ronkay 2001; Fibiger & al. 2010; Gyulai & al. 2013.

Abbreviations for personal and institutional collections used herein: AFM = Alessandro Floriani (Milan, Italy); ASV = Aidas Saldaitis (Vilnius, Lithuania); HNHM = Hungarian Natural History Museum (Budapest, Hungary) NMB = Naturhistorisches Museum (Basel, Switzerland); PGM = Péter Gyulai (Miskolc, Hungary); PGY = genitalia slide Péter Gyulai; ZMHU = Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt—Universitat, Berlin.

Xestioplexia gen. n.

Type-species: *Xestioplexia albicollis* sp. n., here designated.

Diagnosis. The new genus belongs to the subfamily Noctuinae, tribe Noctuini, displaying the closest affinity with the genus *Xestia* (s. l.). *Xestioplexia* is represented by two, externally rather similar, medium-sized species (wingspan 34–40 mm) having black or dark brown ground colour of forewings, generally *Xestia* (*Pachnobia)*—like noctuid pattern and clear white hindwings. *Xestioplexia* differs externally from the members of *Xestia* (*Pachnobia)* by the more angular

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