



## A revision of the South American genus *Metecia* Snellen (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Noctuinae)

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### Abstract

The genus *Metecia* Snellen (Noctuidae, Noctuinae) from Southern Argentina and Chile is redescribed and three species are recognized: *M. cornifrons* Snellen, *M. lacustris* (Köhler) n. comb., and *M. hypothetica* (Köhler) n. comb. In addition, *Euxoa pampeana* Köhler is synonymized with *Metecia cornifrons*. Adults and male and female genitalia are described and illustrated for the first time, and a key to the species is provided.

**Key words:** systematics, genitalia, distribution, Argentina, Chile

### Introduction

Snellen (1879) erected the genus *Metecia* for a single South American species, *M. cornifrons*, defined by longitudinally striate forewings and a prominent vertical ridge on the frons. Köhler (1945) described *Euxoa pampeana* and *Euxoa p. blanchardi*, from La Pampa and Córdoba, respectively. Subsequently, Köhler (1967) raised *E. p. blanchardi* to species status, transferred both species to the genus *Pareuxoina* Köhler, and described *Pareuxoina hypothetica* and *P. lacustris* as new from Neuquén (Argentina). Poole (1989) reassigned Köhler's species to *Pareuxoa* Forbes when he synonymized *Pareuxoina* with *Pareuxoa*. Most recently, Nye (see Beccaloni *et al.* 2003) proposed that *Metecia cornifrons* was probably the senior synonym of *Pareuxoina pampeana blanchardi* (Köhler).

From our research of these taxa we have drawn three conclusions. First, the four nominal Köhler species belong to neither *Pareuxoa* nor *Pareuxoina*. Second, these species are closely related to the type-species of *Metecia* and with it constitute a monophyletic unit. Third, *Metecia cornifrons* is the senior synonym of *Pareuxoina pampeana blanchardi*, as Nye suggested. Herein we redefine and revise the genus *Metecia* using morphological characteristics.

### Methods

Institutional acronyms are as follows: Instituto y Fundación Miguel Lillo, Tucumán (IFML); Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas, Mendoza (IADIZA); British Museum of Natural History, London (BMNH); Naturalis Biodiversity Centre (formerly Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie), Netherlands (RMNH); and Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates, München (ZSM).

Genitalic dissections were conducted as described in Lafontaine (2004). Terminology follows Lafontaine (2004), male genitalia clasper terminology follows Pogue (2002).

Adult images were taken with a Panasonic LZ8 digital camera. Genitalic images were taken with a Leica S6E stereoscopic microscope using a Canon Powershot S50 digital camera, stacked using COMBINEZP (Hadley 2015) and enhanced with image editing software. Distribution maps were made using Simplemapp (Shorthouse 2010).