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Meharia ganslmeieri sp. nov.—a new Cossidae species from Zambia (Lepidoptera)

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Abstract. *Meharia ganslmeieri* sp. nov. is described from Zambia (Luangwa Valley), Africa.

Key words: Cossidae, Carpenter-Moths, Zambia, Africa, new species, Luangwa, fauna

Cossidae (Insecta, Lepidoptera: Cossidae) has a nearly worldwide distribution. At the present time about 1000 species of Cossidae are known (van Neukerken *et al.* 2011; Yakovlev 2011), and more than 700 species inhabit Old World. The most species rich regions are arid and subarid areas of Eurasia, Africa, Madagascar, southeastern Asia (especially Yunnan, Sichuan, northern regions of Vietnam and Thailand) and South America.

The genus *Meharia* Chretien, 1915 (type species *Meharia incurvariella* Chretien, 1915) is the type genus for the monotypic subfamily Mehariinae Yakovlev, 2011. Fourteen valid species of this genus have been described (Yakovlev *et al.* 2013; Yakovlev 2014) from arid and subarid regions of the West Palearctic (from Morocco to East Volga region) and the Afrotropical Region (Mauritania, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi). The most species rich regions are Arabia and the Sahara where four and four species, respectively are recorded. It is noteworthy that the Sahara Desert does not seem to be an insurmountable dispersal barrier for the members of the genus (Yakovlev & Dubatolov 2013; Yakovlev 2015) in contrast to the vast majority of other lepidopteran genera (Larsen 1991; Kryzhanovskij 2003; Dubatolov 2008a; 2008b). At the present time three species are known to occur in territories south of Sahara and Sahel: *M. murphyi* Yakovlev & Saldaitis, 2013 (distribution northern Malawi, Rumph District), *M. ostrauskasi* Ivinskis & Saldaitis, 2013 (distribution eastern Kenya) and *M. tanganyikae* Bradley, 1952 (distribution Tanzania). During the study of the Cossidae material from Africa, a new species of the genus *Meharia* from Zambia was found. It is described in this paper.

Meharia ganslmeieri Yakovlev & Witt, sp. nov.

(Figures 1–2)

Material. Holotype: male, Africa, Zambia, Luangwa Valley, 600 m, 15.06.2010, leg. N. Pürzer & C. Ganslmeier (Museum Witt, Munich).

Description. Forewing length 15 mm, wingspan 32 mm. Antenna yellowish-brown, bipectinate, about 3/4 length of forewing, pecten long, four times longer than diameter of flagellum. Labial palpi pale-yellow, twice as long as diameter of head. Thorax and base of abdomen covered by white-yellow scales. Distal part of abdomen covered with brown scales dorsally. Forewing narrow, long, with rounded apex. Forewing yellowish-brown, weakly paler in distal zone, with poorly developed skew brown band along wing, fringe long, yellowish-brown. Hindwing brown, patternless, with yellow basal zone, yellowish-brown margin and fringe.

Male genitalia of typical shape for the genus.

Uncus short, stout, with rostral apex; tegumen medium-sized; branches of gnathos stout, medium-sized; gnathos pyramidal, strongly sclerotized, smooth; valva short, broad, parallel-sided and with rounded apex; juxta V-shaped, with long lateral processes diverged at sharp angle; saccus small, deflected; phallus stout, slightly concave at proximal third, pore of vesica in apically-abdominal position, its diameter comes to 1/3 phallus length; vesica with 6 tooth-like cornuti (4 on the right, 2 on the left) which are directed nearly perpendicularly to phallus axis.