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A new species of *Bryoleuca* Hampson, 1908 from Afghanistan (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Bryophilinae)

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A new species of the *raptricula* species-group, *Bryoleuca pljushtchi* sp. n. is described. A diagnostic comparison is made with *Bryoleuca raptricula* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), *Bryoleuca felina* (Eversmann, 1852), *Bryoleuca orthogramma* (Boursin, 1954), *Bryoleuca volodia* An, Choi & Ronkay, 2013 and *Bryoleuca nahnybidai* Pekarsky, 2014. Adults and female genitalia of the new species and its closest relatives are illustrated. Modern taxonomic studies of the *raptricula*-group started by Fibiger *et al.* (2009) and got progress by the clarification of the taxonomic status of *B. felina* (Pekarsky & Ronkay 2010). Subsequently, further two newly recognised species were described in the last two years, *B. volodia* and *B. nahnybidai*. The first attempt to prepare the checklist of the subfamily was made by Hacker (1990) and, later, European check list was given in the Noctuidae Europaea, Vol. 11 (Fibiger *et al.* 2009). As for the fauna of Afghanistan, Koçak and Kemal (2012) listed twelve Bryophilinae species one of which, *B. raptricula*, belongs to the genus *Bryoleuca*. The taxonomic situation of the *raptricula* species-complex is far not completely known yet. Present paper contains the description of a new *Bryoleuca* species from Afghanistan. The single female of this new species was collected by Ukrainian entomologists Igor Pljushtch and Oleg Pak in Central Afghanistan in 2013.

Abbreviations: HNHM = Hungarian Natural History Museum Budapest (Hungary); OP = Oleg Pekarsky (Budapest, Hungary); LR = László Ronkay (Budapest, Hungary).

Bryoleuca pljushtchi sp. n. (Fig. 1)

Type material. Holotype: female (Fig. 1), Afghanistan, Sabzil, 2850 m, 19–20.07.2013, leg. O. Pak & I. Pljushtch, Slide No. OP2688m (coll. O. Pekarsky).

Diagnosis. The new species for the first inattentive look could be taken for an *Athaumasta* Hampson, 1906, however the slenderer thorax, narrower, more elongated forewing with oblique termen and the patternless hindwing indicate its position within the genus *Bryoleuca* (*Athaumasta* has robust thorax, broader forewing, and conspicuous pattern on hindwing). It belongs, according to its genitalia structure, to the *raptricula* species-group which is characterized by large size of the female genitalia, very short ductus bursae, presence of elongated sclerotized longitudinal plate in anterior part of ductus bursae, sclerotized appendix bursae. The new species is especially close to *B. orthogramma* (Fig. 8), though being externally strikingly different from all other congeners. The female genitalia of *B. pljushtchi* (Fig. 7) differ from all relatives by the significantly larger size, large, practically rectangular antrum, smoothly sclerotized longitudinal plate in anterior part of ductus bursae, large appendix bursae with heavily sclerotized, cup-like apical plate. Comparing with *B. pljushtchi*, only *B. volodia* (Fig. 12) has relatively similar rectangular shape of antrum, but the other parts of the genitalia are, however, conspicuously different. The other related species, *B. raptricula*, (Fig. 10), *B. felina* (Fig. 11), *B. orthogramma*, and *B. nahnybidai* (Fig. 9) have narrow, shield-like antrum and wrinkled anterior part of corpus bursae.

Description. Adults (Fig. 1). Wingspan 35 mm. Head, collar, thorax, tegulae and abdomen pale clay-yellow. Forewing elongated; apex rounded; outer margin with straight upper part (from apex to vein M_3) and oblique lower part (from vein M_3 to vein A_1). Ground colour pale clay-yellow; elements of noctuid pattern dark brown; basal line as dark dot on vein A ; subbasal and antemedial lines undulate; median fascia present, diffuse, passing through orbicular stigma; postmedial line dentate, sinuous; subterminal line distinct; pre-apical patch small; reniform stigma rather elliptical; orbicular stigma large, lunulate; claviform stigma absent; cilia as ground colour. Hindwing as ground colour but lighter in shade; discal lunule absent. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 7). Ovipositor large, wide, densely covered with hair-like setae; anterior apophyses long, posterior apophyses slightly longer and thinner than anterior apophyses. Antrum broad, ventral plate large, rectangular; subgenital plate (8th abdominal segment) wide, well sclerotized; ductus bursae short; corpus