

**Ergebnisse der Zoologischen Forschungen von
Dr. Z. Kaszab in der Mongolei**

8. A New Symmoeid Genus and Species from Mongolia (Lepidoptera)

By L. A. GOZMÁNY, Budapest

In July, 1963, Dr. Z. KASZAB, Director of the Zoological Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, spent three weeks collecting insects in Mongolia, mainly in the Gobi Desert. In the material, there was found no more than two specimens of moths belonging to the family Symmocidae, but, as was to be expected, they represented a new species. At the first glance they seemed to belong to the genus *Gigantoletria* GOZMÁNY, 1963, but a closer examination revealed that the establishment of also a new genus was necessary, to be diagnosed as follows:

Gobiletria gen. n.

Derivation of generic name: Gobi (the Desert) + Apiletria

Head (eyes, antennae, labial palpi), and, in general, shape and venation of wings as in *Gigantoletria* GOZMÁNY, 1963 (1, p. 71—72). Fore wings, however, with a sharper apex; hind wing more evenly margined, margins almost parallel, apex blunter, termen without transition into dorsum. Venation of fore wing as in *Gigantoletria* GOZM., but cu_{1+2} on a short stalk (not conascent as in above genus); venation of hind wing differing by stalked m_3+cu_1 (ratio of stalk: free veins as 1:2).

Female genital organ also longer than abdomen; ovipositor telescoping; introitus vaginae of very definite shape.

Type-species: *G. kaszabi* sp. n.

The new genus is closely allied to *Gigantoletria* GOZMÁNY, 1963, discovered on the hilly steppes of Iran, but the above differences suffice to delimit the new taxon satisfactorily. It, too, is a typical deserticolous unit, as the whole generic group apparently related to *Apiletria* LEDERER, 1855. The larvae are unknown, and the reason of one of the most distinguishing features of the group, namely the usually telescoping or very long ovipositors, remains as yet unexplained.

Gobiletria kaszabi sp. n.

Alar expanse: 21—22 mm.

Head, sides of porrect brush of labial palpi whitish yellow (light straw-coloured), palpi above white, third joint yellowish. Antennae whitish, ringed with dark, very finely and minutely ciliate; total length unobservable, probably 3/4 (broken in type-specimens). Scapulae, thorax, basic colour of fore wings straw-coloured. Pattern consisting of veins being marked with fine, brown scales,

hence full pattern (both type-specimens rather worn) possibly similar to that of *Coleophora chamaedryella*-group. Cilia of same colour. Hind wing pearl-grey, cilia whitish.

Abdomen light straw-coloured to whitish, middle of segments dorsally with transversal patches of fine spines, spiny areas diminishing in size toward ovipositor (cf. 1, p. 73, fig. 5 :d).

Female genital organ (figs. 1, 2) extremely long, telescoping, apophyses very long, genital plate elongate, hardly discernible; introitus vaginae highly sclerotized, tubular, almost straight throughout, proximally with a laterally bilobate hood, finely affixed dorsally to transversally straight aperture but saddle-shaped ventrally; median section with two folds laterally, introitus then slightly curved and expanding, more heavily sclerotized; ductus bursae long, fine, narrow, hyaline, extending into elongate, sacculiform bursa with a medially situated signum consisting of very fine, minute, spiniform excrescences, peripherally scrobiculate.

Male unknown.

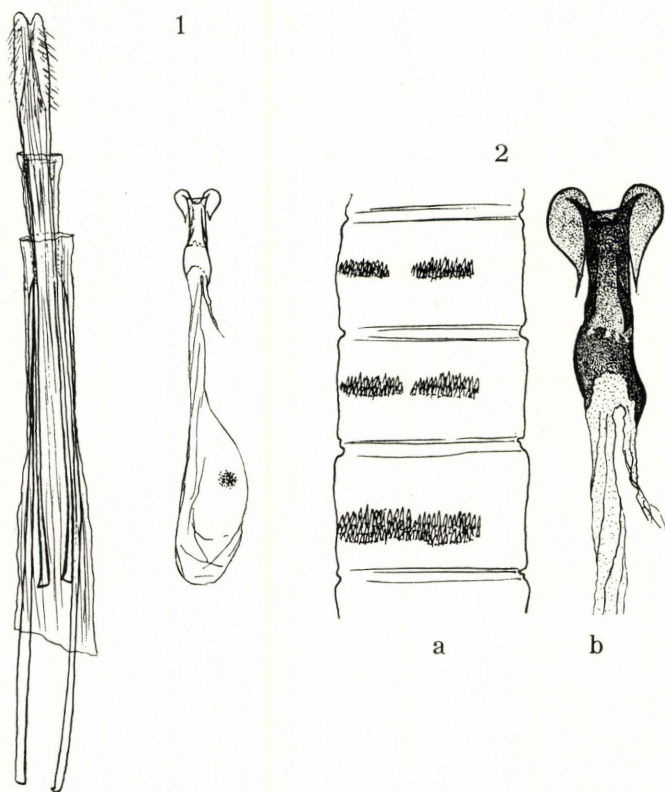


Fig. 1. Female genital organ, ventrally, of *Gobiletria kaszabi* gen. n., sp. n., ovipositor (laminae-abdominalis and gonapophyses) and introitus vaginae + bursa copulatrix removed $\times 6$ — Fig. 2. a. Abdominal segments 4–6, dorsally, $\times 20$, and b. introitus vaginae ventrally, $\times 20$.

Holotype female: „Mongolia, Eastgobi aimak, Cagan Elis, 30 km S of Zuun Bajan, 22. June, 1963, leg. Dr. Z. KASZAB, gen.prep. 1780, dr. GOZMÁNY”. Paratype female, of same data. The types are deposited in the Zoological Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

The habitat is a sand desert (Cagan Elis = white sand), with some sporadic “saxaul” vegetation (*Haloxylon* spp.) and *Caragana*. The specimens were captured during night-lamping, in very hot weather preceding a heavy sandstorm.

The new species is dedicated to Dr. Z. KASZAB, specialist of Tenebrionidae and Meloidae yet never failing to capture also micro-moths on his field trips.

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As this paper goes to press, I find that I have to insert a note on the systematical position of the taxa in question. In recent correspondance with Dr. AMSEL, Karlsruhe, we have wellnigh reached the conclusion that the genera *Gigantoletria* Gozm., *Gobiletria* gen.n., and the whole generic group around *Holcopogon* Stgr., ought to be separated as a distinct family. Dr. AMSEL had namely found males of *Gigantoletria amseli* Gozm., whose genital structure, though not too dissimilar, still precludes the relegation of these forms to the family Symmocidae. At present, however, nothing more definite can be said, and the solving of the problem, requiring further material and investigation, will probably be presented in a future study.

References: GOZMÁNY, L. A.: The Family Symmocidae and the Description of New Taxa mainly from the Near East (Lepidoptera) (Acta Zool. Acad. Sci. Hung. 9, 1963, p. 67—134).

