

Tineid Moths from Ghana, West Africa (I.)

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DR. S. ENDRÓDY-YOUNGA, Coleopterist of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, sent me the first lot of his lepidopterological collectings obtained in the first of his five years' stay in Ghana. The material, collected by lamp in May and June, 1965, contained a number of interesting Tineid moths, too. The captures were made in Kumashi Niasu, Ghana. The specimens were marked by a serial number, representing the following dates of capture: 7 = 10–22 May; 8 = 23–29 May; 10 = 2–5 June; 11 = 12–14 June; 13 = 18–20 June; 14 = 21–23 June; these numbers shall also be given below, when listing the data of the specimens concerned.

Phthoropoea WALSINGHAM, 1896

(Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 282)

Syn.: *Plemyristis* MEYRICK, 1915 (Exot. Microl. 1, p. 369);
Polycompsois MEYRICK, 1932 (Exot. Microl., 4, p. 325–6);
Gnathosaristis MEYRICK, 1936 (Exot. Microl., 5, p. 54);
? *Aphanoptis* MEYRICK, 1927 (Boll. Soc. Ent. Ital, 59, p. 161).

1. *Phthoropoea oenochares* (MEYRICK, 1920)

(Exot. Microl., 2, p. 362)

A number of specimens of this pest, common in tropical Africa, from: 7, 8. (Gen. prep. 2528).

Ceratophaga PETERSEN, 1957

(Beitr. Entom., 7, p. 130–131)

2. *Ceratophaga vastella* (ZELLER, 1852)

(Vetensk. Acad. Handl., p. 88)

One male exemplar, from: 8 (gen. prep. 2534).

Monopis HÜBNER, 1825

(Verz. bek. Schmett., p. 401)

3. *Monopis immaculata* GOZMÁNY (in litt., 1966)

Two specimens of this fine taxon, until recently confused with *M. monachella* HBN. Captured: 8.

4. *Monopis marcans* sp. n.

Alar expanse: 13 mm. Head, third joint of labial palpi yellow, second joint and antennae blackish, centre of thorax yellow, scapulae and rest of thorax blackish grey. Fore wing fuscous, richly mixed with ochreous yellow and irrorated with black; dorsum with a wide, light ochreous yellowish streak, bordered above by a black line in basal third of fold and a small, elongated black spot at $\frac{1}{2}$, this latter hardly entering ochreous streak; black scales densely accumulated basally around elongated, translucent discal spot, discocellular with a round black dot, black irroration strong in apical area and outer third of wing, alternating along margins with yellowish spots, but no distinct pattern formed; cilia yellowish, with fuscous scales. Hind wing medium grey, with a strong coppery sheen.



Fig.— 1. Female genital organ of *Monopis marcans* sp. n., ventrally, Holotype, gen. prep. 2536.
— Fig. 2 Female genital organ of *Perissomastix styx* sp. n., area of introitus and ductus caudally, bursa separated, Paratype, gen. prep. 2524.

Female genital organ: nearly one-half of ductus a strongly sclerotized, thin tube, ductus then membranous, bursa large, in its upper third with two cornuti, resembling drawing-pins (Fig. 1).

The new species belongs to the *liberiella*-group; a number of taxa having a conspicuous yellow dorsal streak on the fore wings. It stands nearest to *liberiella* ZELLER, 1879, which has, however, a considerably shorter sclerotized section (about one-fourth) of the ductus, and triangular signa.

Holotype female: 7, gen. prep. 2536.

Perissomastix ROTHSCILD & WARREN, 1905

(Nov. Zool., 12, Nr. 1, p. (33))

Syn.: *Malacyntis* MEYRICK, 1908 (Proc. Zool. Soc., London, p. 738);

Catabola DURRANT, 1913 (Nov. Zool., 20, Nr. 1, p. 142);

Psolarcha MEYRICK, 1933 (Exot. Microl., 4, p. 412).

5. Perissomastix styx sp. n.

Alar expanse: 14–21 mm. Head black, occasionally mixed with some slight rufous, antennae light greyish ochreous, thorax and fore wing ochreous yellowish with some orange tint and sheen, cilia concolorous; hind wing medium grey with some brassy shine.

Male genital organ: uncus bifurcate, inner lobe membranous, slightly sinuous, apically blunt, hairy, saddle semicircular, dorsal lobe strongly sclerotized, mucronate, inclinate, dorsally slightly and evenly concave, basally evenly rounded, aedoeagus elongate, apically acicular (Fig. 5).

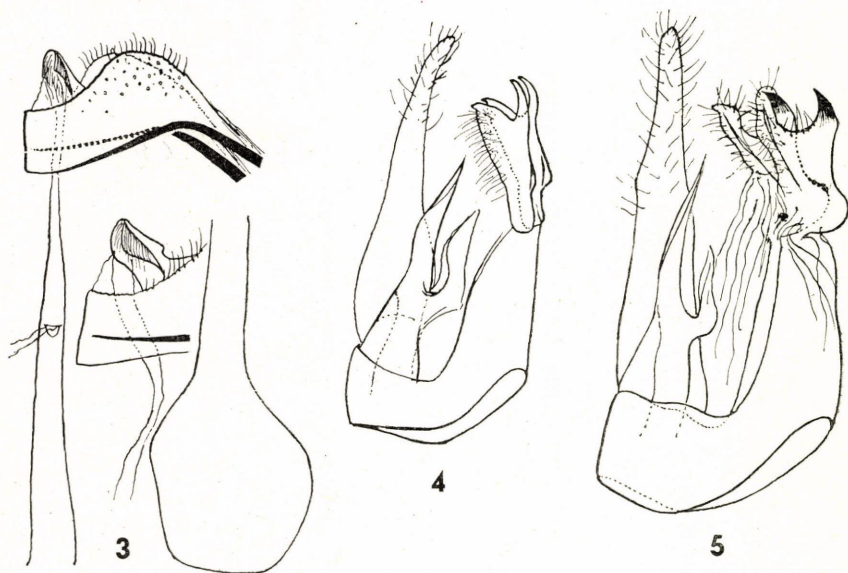


Fig. 3. Female genital organ of *Perissomastix sericea* sp. n., area of introitus and ductus, laterally separated, Paratype, gen. prep. 2519; in centre also area of introitus and ductus, laterally, of Paratype, gen. prep. 2522. — Fig. 4. Male genital organ of *Perissomastix sericea* sp. n., laterally, left valva removed, Paratype, gen. prep. 2514. — Fig. 5. Male genital organ of *Perissomastix styx* sp. n., laterally, left valva removed, Holotype, gen. prep. 2513.

Female genital organ: ventral branch of apophyses anteriores sharply arched, introitus elongate, apically slightly incised, ductus medium wide, bursa very large, without signa (Fig. 2).

Externally, the new species belongs to the black-headed, or "*othello*"-group; as regards genital structure, it has no near ally, all similar taxa having also an inner "tooth" in the uncus.

Holotype male: 7, gen. prep. 2513; 8 male and 1 female Paratypes: 7, 8, 10, 13 (gen. prep. 2512, 2524).

6. *Perissomastix sericea* sp. n.

Alar expanse: 13–16 mm. Head light yellowish rufous, antennae light yellowish grey, thorax and fore wing stramineous yellow, with a strong golden to sericeous shine; hind wing light sericeous grey.

Male genital organ: uncus bifurcate, inner lobe wide, elongately veliform, apically finely pointed ventrad, narrowing toward base, saddle finely declivitous, dorsal lobe slender, finely arched, corniform to dactyloid, dorsal margin straight, base angular and abruptly constricted to a small columellar foundation; aedoeagus relatively short, ventrally sinuous, dorsally straight, acicular (Fig. 4).

Female genital organ: introitus sharply exserted, ductus narrow, bursa small and rounded, ventral branch of apophyses anteriores straight (Fig. 3).

The new species belongs to the red-headed subgroup of taxa, genitally similar only to *mili* GOZMÁNY, 1965 (Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 9, p. 269, Fig. 18), whose uncus is, however, much narrower, its dorsal margin protruding basally in a semi-circle, the female with small, stelliform signa; *fulvicoma* (MEYRICK, 1921; Ann. Transvaal Mus., 8, p. 129) has a sharply projecting base dorsally of uncus and a concave dorsum; *onyx* GOZMÁNY, 1966 (Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 12, p. 251–266) is black-headed, its uncus with a finely arching base dorsally and only a vestigial dorsal lobe.

Holotype male: 7; 13 male (gen. prep. 2514, 2515) and 4 female (gen. prep. 2518, 2519, 2521, 2522) Paratypes, from: 7, 8, 11, 13.

Episcardia RAGONOT, 1895

(Bull. Soc. Ent. France, p. CV)

Syn.: *Cylicobathra* MEYRICK, 1920 (Voyage de CH. ALLUAUD et R. JEANNEL en Afrique Oriental, II, Microlep. p. 100)

7. *Episcardia endroedyi* sp. n.

Alar expanse: 10–12 mm. Head yellow, antennae yellow (with some black in Holotype), blackish fuscous, scapulae black; fore wing fuscous violet with a strong coppery shine (base of scales greyish violet, tip blackish), uniform in basal section, but dark irroration evenly stronger toward apical area, cilia concolorous; hind wing dark greyish fuscous, scales smaller but of a corresponding colour structure, also with a slight coppery shine.

Male genital organ: valva roughly quadrangular, transtilla long, arched, valva apically bifurcate into a long, thin, recurving caudal and a rod-shaped, blunt ventral

process; embraced apical margin deeply excised into a wide saddle; ventro-proximal, rounded corner of valva with a circular batch of strong bristles; uncus-arms twice bent: slender basally, conduplicate medially and flattening apically into a square lobe (bearing strong bristles directed ventrad) terminating in a fine, sharp, extrorse tooth: both lobes in juxtaposition but facing in opposite directions: aedoeagus a long, truncate, straight tube of characteristic affixture to inner wall of ventrally narrower, dorsally wider, annular vinculum (Fig. 6).

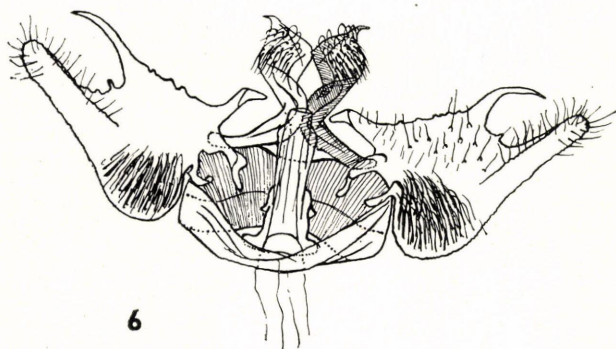


Fig. 6. Male genital organ of *Episcardia endrodyi* sp. n., ventrally, Paratype, gen. prep. 2516.

The great number of *Episcardia* taxa known from the Ethiopian Region are externally highly similar to each other, hence the species can be delimited only by the structure of the genital organs. The new species resembles, as to valval shape, *effulgens* GOZMÁNY, 1965 (Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 11, p. 273, Fig. 24), but the uncus of this latter is entirely different, whilst *ensigera* GOZMÁNY, 1966 (Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 12, p. 66—67) has a narrow vinculum also dorsally, and the uncus, though at the first glance similar, is shaped like a broadsword and carries no bristles.

Holotype male: 7, gen. prep. 2526; 4 other male Paratypes: from 7, 8, 10 (gen. prep. 2516, 2525, 2527, 2535).

I dedicate the new species to DR. S. ENDRÖDY-YOUNGA, coleopterist and esteemed friend, the collector of the valuable material.

Morophaga HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1853
(Syst. Bearb. Schmett. Europa, 5, 7, p. 22)

Syn.: *Atabyria* SNELLEN, 1884 (Tijdschr. Ent., 22, p. 164—166);
Microcardia AMSEL, 1951 (Fragm. ent., 1, p. 139);
Osphretica MEYRICK, 1910 (Trans. ent. Soc. London, p. 475).

8. Morophaga soror GOZMÁNY, 1965
(Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung. 11, p. 281).

A male specimen of this widely distributed taxon; it is now known from Ghana, Natal, Belgian Congo, South Africa. The data are: 11, gen. prep. 2537.

Scalidomia WALSINGHAM, 1891
(Trans. Ent. Soc. London, p. 83)

9. *Scalidomia fetalis* MEYRICK, 1917

(Exot. Microl., 2, p. 88).

Five male (gen. prep. 2517) and one female specimen (gen. prep. 2533) of this rather common species along the western coastal districts of tropical Africa. Date of capture: 7.

References: 1. GOZMÁNY, L.: Some Collections of Tineid Moths from Africa (Lepidoptera) (Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 11, 1965, p. 253—294). — 2. GOZMÁNY, L.: Tineid Moths from the Ruwenzori Range (Lepidoptera) (Acta Zool. Ac. Sci. Hung., 12, 1966, p. 53—71). — 3. GOZMÁNY, L.: The Tineid Moths of the Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium (Ann. Mus. Roy. Afr. Centr. S. Zool., in print). — 4. MEYRICK, E.: Exotic Microlepidoptera I—V, 1912—1937.