

New Symmocid Moths (Lepidoptera) in the Collection of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.)

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In the General Collection of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, some new species have been found. Their description as well as a reinterpretation of the generic state of *Donaspastus epentheticus* (MEYRICK, 1931) follows:

Indiospastus gen. n.

(Derivation of generic name: India + *Donaspastus*)

Head similar to that of *Symmoca* HBN., labial palpi about 4 times as long as diameter of eye, antennae simple. Fore wing narrowly ovoid, elongate, apically

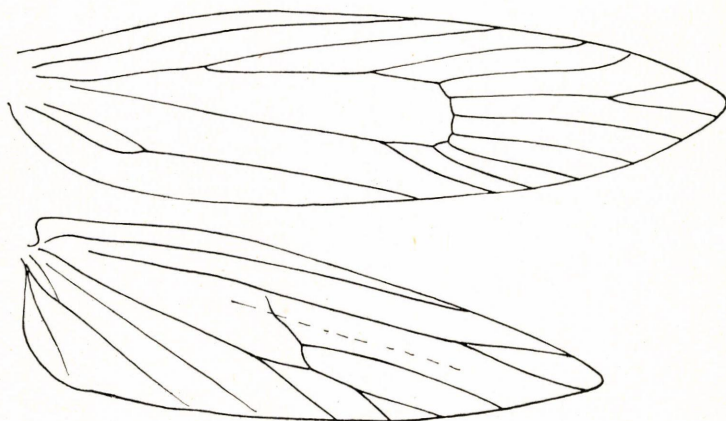


Fig. 1. Venation of *Indiospastus* gen. n. *epentheticus* (MEYRICK)

rather pointed, costa and dorsum about equally long and arching toward apex. Venation: $r_3 - cu_1$ equidistant r_{4+5} around apex, proportion of stalk to free branches as 2:1, cu_2 rather far removed from cu_1 , their distance about equalling that between r_2 and r_3 . Hindwing about as wide as forewing, wedge-shaped, apically pointed. Venation: $rr + m_1$ around apex, proportion of stalk to free branches as $1\frac{1}{2}:1$, $m_3 + cu_1$ stalked, proportion of stalk to free branches as 1:1 (Fig. 1).

Type-species: *Paradoris epentheticus* MEYRICK, 1931.

The new genus stands nearest to *Catasphalma* GOZMÁNY, 1957, but the common stalk of the bifurcating veins are considerably longer, while the external features approach, or are similar to, those of *Donaspastus* GOZMÁNY, 1952, to which I had erroneously relegated this Indian species in 1957. Instead of examining a photograph, I had now occasion to study the type-specimens themselves, and a thorough check of the venation revealed their status distinct from all known genera.

***Mylothra christophi* sp. n.**

Alar expanse: 16–18 mm (male); female unknown.

Head, thorax, scapulae, labial palpi dark to medium chocolate brown with some fawnish tinge, antennae dark grey, labial palpi above with a whitish line. Forewing largely dark fawnish with a strong admixture of chocolate brown scales; white scales present rather in apical area; discocellular spots confluent, together with indistinctly outlined veins in apical area dark chocolate brown; a pair of dots at $1/3$ (that in fold nearer to base!); cilia greyish white. Hindwing medium grey to greyish brown, cilia light to medium grey.

Male genital organ (Fig. 2): teguminal complex of main Symmocid characters, valva elongate, apically slightly excised, no costal appendage, transtillae relatively large arcuate lobes, marked by indistinctly undulating lines, hairy, sacculus obtusely digitiform, apically hardly or only very finely pointed, aedoeagus straight, with a double row of spiniform cornuti.

Holotype male: "Schahrud ♀ 8.6.71 + CHRISTOPH Coll. 1910–427" slide 14009 BM; 2 male Paratypes, of same data, but one from "13. 6.71" slide 14007 BM. The type-specimens are deposited in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London, one Paratype in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

The new species is closely allied to *Nestorellus meyricki* GERASIMOV, 1930, and *Mylothra sheherezade* (GOZMÁNY, 1963). However, the transtillae of the former are straight, the sacculi otherwise construed; while the latter is also much lighter, of a creamy ochreous colour, and the sacculi narrower, longer, constricted in the middle, with a definitely beaky apex.

***Pecteneremus walsinghami* sp. n.**

Syn.: *Symmoca molitor* WALSINGHAM, 1905, partim

Alar expanse: 12–15 mm (male).

Head, labial palpi, scape, scapulae, thorax dark ivory, mottled with light fawnish scales, antennae dark grey. Forewing light to darkish ivory, densely irrorated fawnish; dot in fold at $1/3$ and small discocellular hardly indicated and rather indistinct, occasionally absent; cilia whitish with a broad subbasal grey shadow along termen. Hindwing rather dark grey, cilia grey.

Male genital organ (Fig. 3): valva rather broad, costal appendix short, slightly arcuate and digitiform, transtillae two sinuous, narrow and parallel bands, sacculus falcate, attenuate, terminally aciculiform, valval base with a longitudinal evagination or fold of membrane, subserrate, bearing some bristles (a unique feature in the family!), aedoeagus slender, tubiform, straight, examined specimens without cornuti.

Holotype male: "El Kantara, Algeria, 22. IV. 1903, Wlsm. 89880" WALSINGHAM Collection + *Symmoca molitor* Paratype 2/2 + slide 13976 BM"; 6 male Paratypes, of same locality; collector and collection, but: "18. V. 1903 No. 96547 + slide 14121 BM"; "25. V. 1903, No. 96002 + slide 14122 BM"; "25. V. 1903, No. 96003 + slide 14124 BM";

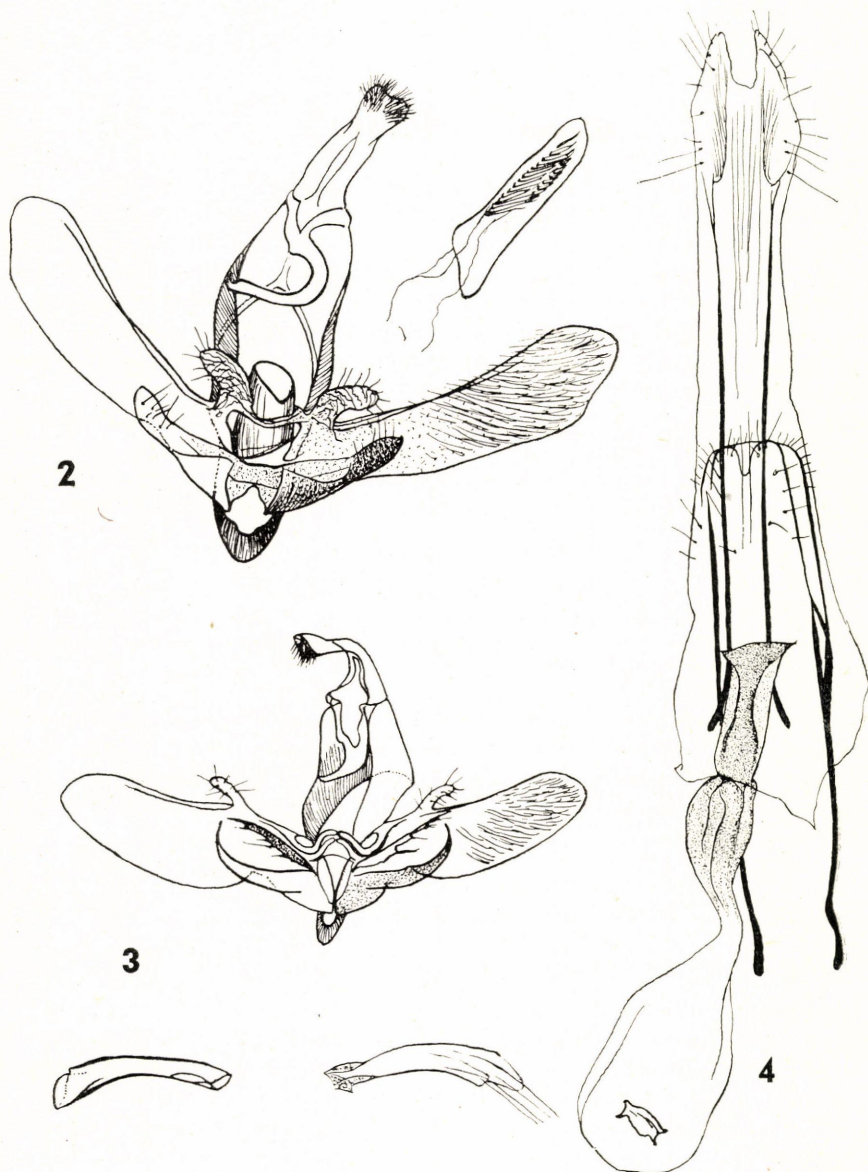


Fig. 2. Male genital organ of *Mylothra christophi* sp. n., ventrally, aedeagus separated, Holotype, slide 14009 BM. — Fig. 3. Male genital organ of *Pecteneremus walsinghami* sp. n., ventrally, aedeagus removed, in right corner, Holotype, slide 13 976 BM; aedeagus in left corner of Paratype slide 14125 BM. — Fig. 4. Female reproductive organ of *Tenieta evae* sp. n., ventrally, Holotype, slide 14162 BM.

"25. V. 1903, No. 96006 + slide 14125 BM"; "23. V. 1903, No. 89889 + slide 14128 BM"; "25. V. 1903, No. 96004 + slide 14131 BM". The types are deposited in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, and the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

The peculiar, serrate fold of the valvae, the digitiform appendix, the falciform sacculus and the structure of the transtillae rather isolate the new species from all of its known congeners. I dedicate the new species to Lord WALSINGHAM, one of the foremost explorers of the Lepidoptera of Algir and the author of a number of Western Mediterranean Symmocids.

Pecteneremus decipiens sp. n.

Alar expanse: 16 mm (male), 12 mm (female).

Head, labial palpi, antennae, thorax, scapulae yellowish grey. Forewing ivory, suffused with light yellowish grey; some fawnish or brown scales scattered in cell and in middle of wing, discocellulars represented only by lower dot; some minute dots on margin around apex; cilia light yellowish grey; Hindwing light grey, cilia yellowish grey.

Female slightly lighter in colour, patternless.

Male genital organ (Fig. 5): valval membrane very fine, easily folding longitudinally, no appendix, transtillae conical or elongately triangular, apically hairy, sacculus roughly axe-shaped, internally irregularly crenate, "shaft" straight; aedoeagus basally wide, then narrow, with a row of spiniform cornuti.

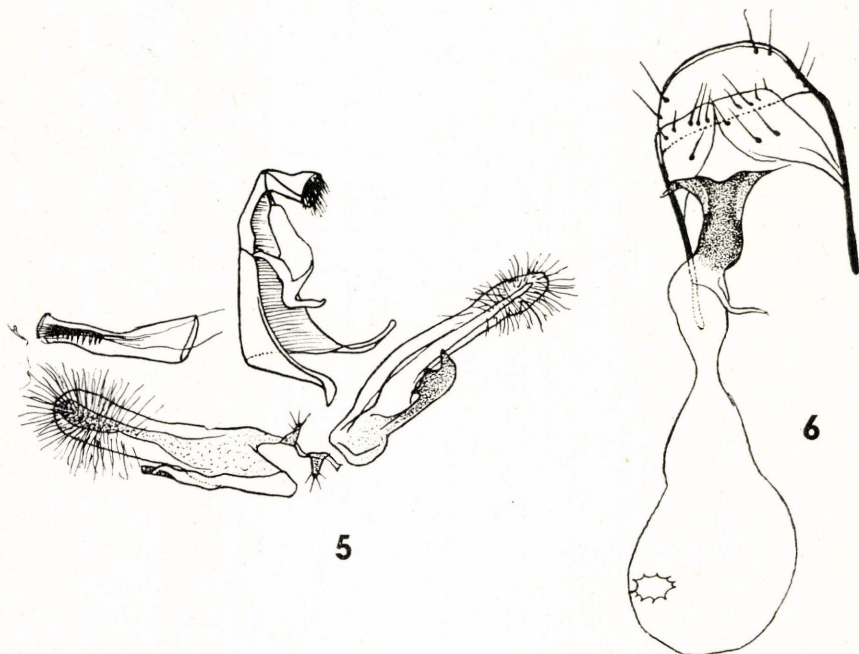


Fig. 5. Male genital organ of *Pecteneremus decipiens* sp. n., ventrally, Holotype, slide 14115 BM. — Fig. 6. Female reproductive organ of same, ventrally, ovipositor removed, Paratype, slide 14117 BM.

Female genital organ (Fig. 6): atrial area calyciform, ductus first wide then constricted, bursa with a stelliform signum.

Holotype male: "Biskra, Algeria, 21. IV. 1894, Eaton, Nr. 5805 + WALSINGHAM Collection + slide 14115 BM"; Paratype female: "Biskra, Algeria, 24. IV. 1895, Eaton Nr. 8354 + WALSINGHAM Collection + slide 14117 BM". The types are deposited in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.

Of its congeners, only *P. albellus* (AMSEL, 1959), of the Near East, has a somewhat similarly shaped sacculus, but the transtillae are quite different, the ostium of its female is infundibuliform, the ductus evenly wide; though the female of *P. pharaoh* GOZMÁNY, 1963, bears a certain resemblance, its ostium is considerably narrower, and the structure of the male organ widely dissimilar.

Tenieta evae sp. n.

Alar expanse: 14 mm (female).

Head, labial palpi, antennae, thorax, scapulae white. Forewing ivory with 3 yellow spots: first at $\frac{1}{3}$ in cell, second smaller and beneath it in fold, discocellular largest, all indistinctly delimited; cilia white. Hindwing and cilia white.

Female genital organ (Fig. 4): introitus wide, narrowing into a rather long tube, ductus roughly rugose, wide, constricted only above bursa, signum a flange-shaped, oblong plate.

Holotype female: "Mauretania, Stgr. No. 583. 6. II. 1895, No. 6102 + WALSINGHAM Collection + *Epidola albidella* RBL. named by STGR. + slide 14162 BM", one Paratype female: "Médés, Algeria, 24. VII. 1893, Eaton, No. 4840 + WALSINGHAM Collection + *Symmoca albidella* RBL. named by DRNT. + slide 14169 BM". The types are deposited in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.

The new species differs from its sole known congener, *albidella* (REBEL, 1900), by the yellowish spots of its forewing and the longer, more widely opening ostial area in its reproductive organ.

I dedicate the new species to Mrs. EVE MARKUS, of great help and understanding in my taxonomic work.

References: 1. GOZMÁNY, L. A.: Notes on the Generic Group *Symmoca* Hbn. (Lep. Gelechiidae) (Ann. Hist.-nat. Mus. Nat. Hung., S. N. 8., 1957, p. 325—346). — 2. GOZMÁNY, L. A.: The Family Symmocidae and the Description of New Taxa mainly from the Near East (Lepidoptera) (Acta Zool. Hung. 9, 1963, p. 67—134). — 3. GOZMÁNY, L. A.: The Symmocid Species of the Caradja Collection (Lepidoptera) (Ann. Hist.-nat. Mus. Nat. Hung., 55, 1963, p. 447—456).

