

New *Autophila* taxa from Sicily and Turkey (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

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FIBIGER, M. & RONKAY, L.: New *Autophila* taxa from Sicily and Turkey (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae). - *Annls hist.-nat. Mus. natn. hung.* 1991, 83: 000-000.

Abstract - Descriptions of *Autophila limbata lydia* ssp. n. (Sicily) and *A. iranica xanthozona* ssp. n. (Turkey) are given. With 7 figures.

Autophila limbata lydia ssp. n.

Holotype: male, "Italia, Sicily, Mts. Etna, Paterno 1400 m, 3-4.V.1987, leg. FIBIGER", deposited in coll. FIBIGER. - **Paratypes**: 16 males and females from the same locality and data, in coll. FIBIGER and HNHN Budapest. Slide No. 2395 (male).

Description: wingspan 36-38 mm, length of fore wing 17-18 mm. Head, thorax and fore wing ochreous grey, strongly suffused with fumous grey-brown hairs and scales. Elements of pattern diffuse or obsolescent. Lighter parts of wing reduced to a stripe between postmedial and subterminal lines and ghost of subterminal line; wings very shiny. Terminal line yellowish, cilia nearly unicolorous, grey-brown. Hind wing dark grey-brown, cellular lunule only slightly visible, marginal suffusion wide and dark. Terminal line yellowish, cilia shiny ochreous with brownish scales. Underside of wings pale, shiny ochreous with intensive brownish suffusion. Marginal field dark and wide, cellular lunules dark but less conspicuous. Some specimens have a diffuse, dark transversal line on wings (or only on fore wing); cilia as on upper side.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2): uncus slender, tegumen narrow and high, peniculi arcuate, short. Vinculum wide, U-shaped, fultura inferior anvil-shaped. Valvae distally strongly dilated, apex rounded, editum short and pointed, scarcely hairy. Saccus narrow, medially folded; saccular extension large and rounded, "bear/ear"-shaped. Aedeagus cylindrical with small proximal bulb, distal end beak-shaped, without teeth on carina. Vesica consists of three diverticles bearing small cornuti.

The new subspecies differs from the nominate race with its very dark ground colour, diffuse pattern and intensive fumous suffusion of both wings. The presence of the transversal lines on the underside is also characteristic for *lydia*, as the specimens of the nominate race has clear yellowish underside with only the dark cellular lunules and the wide, dark marginal suffusion. The configuration of the male genitalia of *lydia* is very similar to that of the nominate *limbata* (Fig. 1), only the editum and the peniculi are a bit shorter. The new subspecies is distributed in Sicily, on the Mt. Etna, inhabiting the dark coloured rocky habitats; the general appearance of the specimens is very probably correlated with the colouration of the rocky surface.

Autophila iranica xanthozona ssp. n.

Holotype: male, "Turkey, Isparta, Celtikci pas, 1400 m, 15.VII.1987, leg. M. FIBIGER", slide No. 3014 RONKAY. Deposited in coll. FIBIGER. - **Paratypes**: two males from the same locality and data, slides Nos 3002, 3015 RONKAY. Deposited in coll. FIBIGER and HNHN, Budapest.

Description: wingspan 40-43 mm, length of fore wings 18.5-19.5 mm. Head and thorax ochreous-grey mixed with brownish-grey hairs, antennae finely ciliate, palpi nearly unicolorous. Fore wing shiny, light ochreous, elements of pattern conspicuous, grey or grey-brown. Basal area wide, ochreous, irrorated with brownish-grey, sinuous, postmedial line conspicuous, strongly waved, defined by a wide, ochreous stripe on outer side. Orbicular spot a small, rounded dot, reniform a dark lunule; median area strongly covered with grey-brown scales, some parts of medial line also visible. Subterminal line sinuous, diffuse but well discernible, dark grey defined with some ochreous, marginal area intensely covered with grey. Terminal line dull yellowish, cilia ochreous, inner part of it spotted with grey. Hind wing bright ochreous, basal and marginal areas suffused with dark greyish-brown; cilia ochreous with some brownish scales. Underside of wings shiny yellowish, darker elements of upper side of fore wing more or less visible as diffuse shadows. Ghost of reniform relatively strong, marginal suffusion wide and dark, grey-brown. Terminal lines and cilia dull yellowish, latter with some greyish spots on fore wings.

Male genitalia (Figs 3-5): uncus elongate with pointed apex, strongly curved. Tegumen high and slender, peniculi large, arcuate. Fultura inferior anvil-shaped, vinculum wide, U-shaped. Valvae elongate, wide, apex rounded. Editum triangular and pointed, finely curved and scarcely hairy. Sacculus narrow, folded at base of editum, saccular extension well developed, bilobate, inner lobe large and more or less triangular, ventral lobe small and narrow. Aedeagus cylindrical, distal end beak-shaped, bearing some small teeth. Vesica consists of a large, broad and two smaller diverticles, all of them covered with small, spiculiform cornuti.

The new subspecies differs from the nominate *iranica* with its lighter ochreous ground colour, the more conspicuous ochreous stripes on the outer side of postmedial line and on the hind wing; the darker suffusion of both wings is less intensive. The configuration of the male genitalia of *xanthozona* is very similar to that of *iranica* (Figs 6-7), but the saccular extension of the former is more elongate and narrower at its base, the sclerotization of the distal end of aedeagus is less strong.

The new subspecies represents the western isolated race of the NW Iranian species which has not been discovered in Turkish Kurdistan and the Eastern part of the Taurus chain on the contrary of the intensive collectings in Turkey in this decade. The discovery of this population was really an interesting finding.

Reference

- RONKAY, L. (1989): Taxonomic studies on the genus *Autophila* Hübner, 1823. II. - *Acta zool. hung.* **35** (1-2): 111-141.

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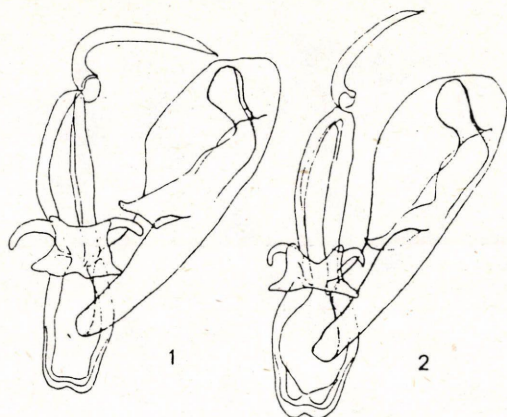
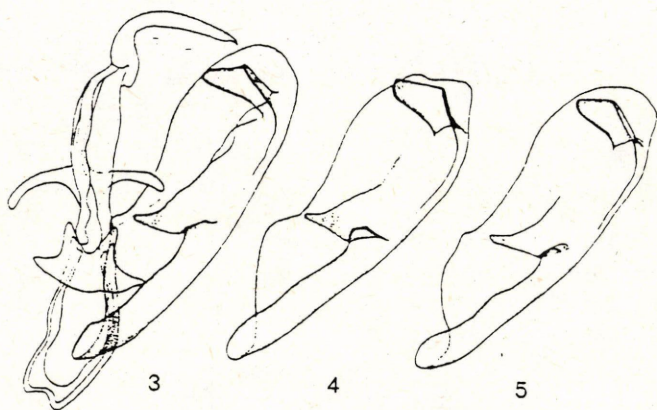
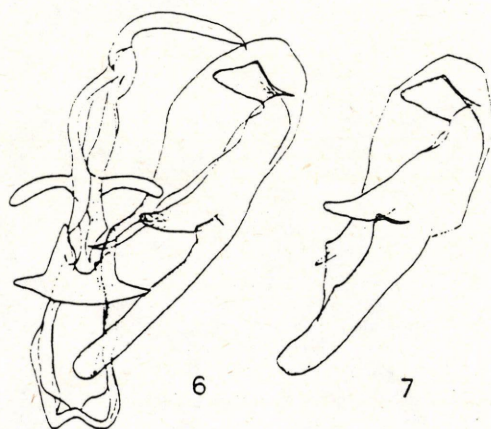


Fig. 1 = *Autophila limbata* STAUDINGER, C Turkey, Fig. 2 = *Autophila limbata lydia* ssp. n., paratype, Sicily



Figs 3-5. *Autophila iranica xanthozona* ssp. n., 3-4 = paratypes, 5 = holotype, Turkey, Isparta



Figs 6-7. *Autophila iranica* RONKAY, 6 = holotype, NW Iran, Kurdistan, 7 = paratype, Iran, Elburs

