

**A new *Brachygalea* Hampson, 1906 species from Iran
(Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)**

L. RONKAY

*Department of Zoology, Hungarian Natural History Museum
H-1088 Budapest, Baross u. 13, Hungary*

RONKAY, L. (1997): A new *Brachygalea* Hampson, 1906 species from Iran (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae). – *Annls hist.-nat. Mus. natn. hung.* 89: 137–140.

Abstract – Description of *Brachygalea miskoi* sp. n. from the Zagros Mts (NW Iran) is given. With 3 figures.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Brachygalea* HAMPSON, 1906 has long been considered as monotypic, containing a West-Mediterranean species, *B. albolineata* (BLACHIER, 1905), occurring in the Maghreb countries and in southern Spain. The recent studies have revealed that another, externally rather dissimilar species, *B. kalchbergi* (STAUDINGER, 1897) from the Near East, also belongs to this genus (VARGA & RONKAY 1991). The taxonomy and the nomenclatural problems of the genus are discussed in detail by RONKAY & RONKAY (1995).

The third species of the genus was discovered in a relatively small material collected in north-western Iran by P. ROHLENA (coll. MISKÓ). This species represents, in appearance a third type within the genus, resembling mostly to *Calophasia angularis* CHRÉTIEN, 1911, but the configuration of the genitalia is typical of *Brachygalea* HAMPSON. The description of the new species is given below.

***Brachygalea miskoi* sp. n.**
(Figs 1–3)

Holotype: male, "IRAN, prov. Esfahan, QAMISHLU, alt. ca. 2000–2200 m, Zagros Mts., 27.–28.iv.1996, lgt. Rohlena Pavel". Slide No. RL5764 RONKAY, deposited in coll. of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (donated by L. MISKÓ, Nové Zámky, Slovakia).

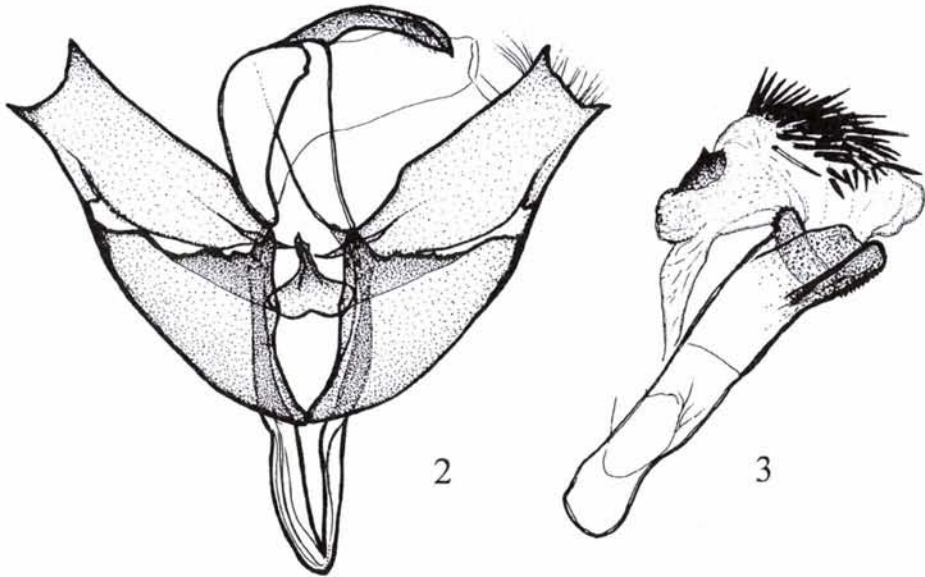
Diagnosis: externally the new species is similar to *Calophasia angularis* but the body is stronger, more robust, the forewing is broader, with more pointed apex, the ante- and postmedial lines are deleted, the claviform is significantly longer, more whitish, the

cilia is conspicuously striolate like in most *Calophasia* STEPHENS, 1829, *Omphalophana* HAMPSON, 1906, etc. species, and the hindwing is much darker, almost completely dark brown. The two, formerly known *Brachygalea* species are rather dissimilar, *B. albolineata* is narrow-winged, almost patternless, the noctuid maculation is represented by a whitish spot at lower extremity of the reniform and a fine dark outline of the claviform, the crosslines are missing, except the interrupted, whitish subterminal. The most conspicuous markings of *B. albolineata*, the two sharp whitish streaks of the submedian fold and the subcellular, are absent in *B. miskoi*. The second member of the genus, *B. kalchbergi*, is quite dissimilar externally, resembling the taxa of the genera *Metopoceras* GUENÉE, 1850, and *Recoropha* NYE, 1975.

The male genital capsulae of the three taxa of the genus are surprisingly similar, the vesicae show relatively larger differences. The male genitalia of the new species (Figs 2–3) differ from those of *B. albolineata* (see RONKAY & RONKAY 1995, Figs 1–2) by their significantly shorter, basally broader valva, shorter, narrower cucullus and pollex, broader, more serrated clavus, shorter apical process of the fultura inferior and several details of the aedeagus and the vesica (shorter aedeagus with shorter, less sclerotized carina, absence of the long basal diverticulum, shorter distal tube of vesica armed with longer, more spiniform cornuti, stronger, more acute terminal cornutus, resp.). The configuration of the male genitalia of *B. miskoi* and *B. kalchbergi* (see VARGA & RONKAY 1991, Figs 55–56) is more similar, but the valva of the new species is even shorter, basally broader, the cucullus is broader with shorter apex and pollex. The clavus is broader, more serrated but the large, triangular basal process is shorter. The carina of *B. miskoi* is shorter, less extending to the basal part of the vesica, the medial part of vesica is armed with a considerably larger amount of longer, spiniform cornuti, the terminal cornutus is larger, more acute, situated much closer to the medial cornuti field.



Fig. 1. *Brachygalea miskoi* sp. n., holotype, Iran



Figs 2–3. Male genitalia of *Brachygalea miskoi* sp. n., holotype, Iran

Description: wingspan 31 mm, length of forewing 14 mm. Body robust, head and thorax pale ashy grey mixed with darker brownish grey, collar and tegulae marked with whitish and blackish-brown. Abdomen rather short, lighter greyish, dorsal crest strong, dark brown-grey. Forewing light ash-grey with a fine bluish shade, suffused with darker greyish brown in medial field; veins covered finely with dark grey, inner margin with a fine, short black line. Crosslines obsolete, antemedial represented by a pale shadow below submedian fold, postmedial missing. Streak of submedian fold short, blackish, marked with whitish at basal area. Stigmata rather sharply defined, orbicular flattened, oblique, reniform narrow, lunulate, both encircled with fine blackish lines and filled with whitish, reniform with darker centre. Claviform long, narrow, white, with more or less interrupted black outline. Subterminal a row of pale brownish arrowheads defined with some whitish, streak of tornus somewhat stronger, more blackish. Cilia white, striolated with dark bluish-grey and brown. Hindwing almost unicolorously dark brown, inner third slightly lighter. Veins covered with darker brown, discal spot small, poorly visible. Cilia white, inner half spotted with brown. Underside of both wings ochreous-grey, hindwing scarcely, inner area of forewing densely suffused with dark grey. Discal spots pale but visible, transverse lines missing, cilia as on upper side.

Male genitalia (Figs 2–3): uncus short, strong, apically slightly hooked, tegumen narrow, moderately high. Fultura inferior a cordiform plate with long, narrow apical process, vinculum strong, long, more or less V-shaped. Valva relatively short, sclerotized, basally broadened, apically tapering, cucullus and pollex short, acute; corona missing. Sacculus broad, clavus large, serrated, its triangular basal process relatively short, wide. Harpe reduced, represented by its slender basal bar fused with ventral margin. Aedeagus rather short, cylindrical, distally slightly dilated. Carina with a relatively short, sclerotized, dentated dorso-lateral lamina prolonged ventrally, forming a narrow half-ring, opposite end armed with a few fine teeth. Vesica everted forward, recurved latero-ventrally. Basal tube short, without diverticulum, medial part inflated, armed with a large number of

long, fine, spiniform cornuti arranged into a compact field, distal third tapering, terminal cornutus strong, acute, sitting on a small terminal diverticulum, situated close to medial cornuti field.

Bionomics. The early stages and the foodplant are unknown. The unique specimen of *B. miskoi* was collected at the end of April at a rather high elevation, presumably it is an univoltine spring species, similarly to its congeners.

Distribution. It is known from the type locality only, representing the easternmost distribution datum of the genus *Brachygalea*.

* * *

Acknowledgements – The author is indebted to Mr. L. MISKÓ (Nové Zámky) for the kind donation of the unique specimen of the new species, as well as to Mr. A. KUN and Mr. A. KEVE (Budapest) for the photographs.

REFERENCES

- RONKAY, G. & RONKAY, L. (1995): Cuculliinae II. – *Noctuidae Europaeae*, Vol. 7. – Entomological Press, Sorø, 224 pp.
- VARGA, Z. & RONKAY, L. (1991): Taxonomic studies on the Palearctic Noctuidae (Lepidoptera). I. New taxa from Asia. – *Acta zool. hung.* 37 (3–4): 263–312.