

A new *Hypenodes* species (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) from  
Bulgaria

By

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Abstract: Description of *Hypenodes nigritalis* sp. n. from SW Bulgaria.

In July 1978 I made a three-week trip in Bulgaria with a student group and my colleague L. PEREGOVITS. We collected some material, mostly in the Western mountain regions, and a part of this material was treated by our friend Cs. SZABÓKY. He found in the material three specimens of an interesting, very small Hypeninae species which he was not able to identify. After examining the specimens I established that they belong to an unknown, new species of the genus *Hypenodes* Doubleday, 1850.

*Hypenodes nigritalis* sp. n. (Plate: 1)

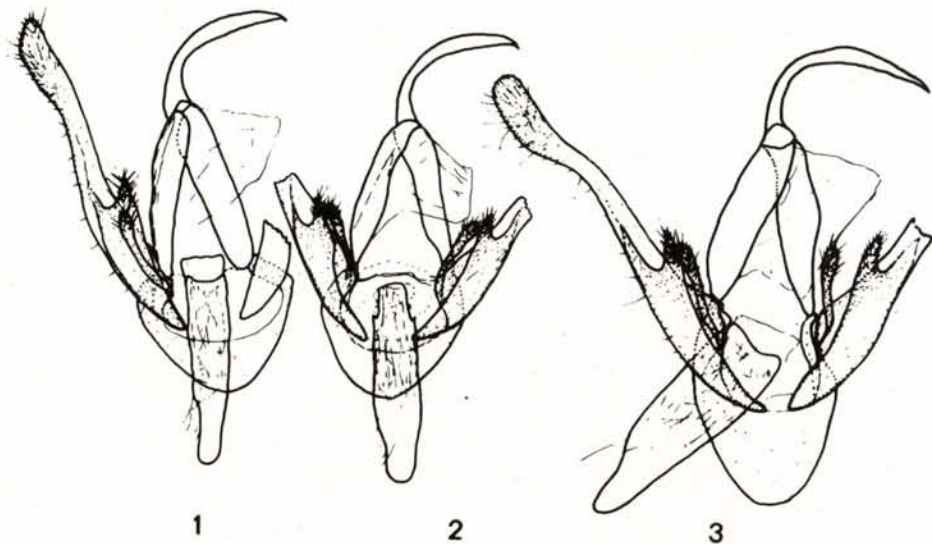
Holotype: ♂, "Bulgaria, Melnik, 1978.7.21., leg. RONKAY, L. et PEREGOVITS, L." Paratypes: 2 ♂ from the same locality and data; slides: Nos. 155, 1210 RONKAY. The types are deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Description: Alar expanse 9.5-11 mm, length of fore wing 4.5-5 mm. Head and tegulae with long, dark grey-brown scales, labial palp short, relatively strongly recurved. Fore wing dark, unicolourous chocolate brown with very fine greyish tinge. Costa without strong, blackish patch at the base, but with well discernible, yellowish grey spots near to apex. Antemedial and postmedial slightly sinuous, blackish-brown defined by yellowish grey on outer side, cellular lunula blackish, strong, but narrow. Subterminal consists of small, yellowish spots, cilia dark greyish with lighter yellowish grey basal line. Hind wing and underside patternless, unicolourous, dark brown-grey.

Male genitalia (figs 1-2) similar in type to that of *Hypenodes orientalis* Staudinger, 1901 (fig. 3), but much smaller, valvae shorter. Vinculum smaller and wider, more rounded; uncus short. Aedeagus essentially smaller, more gracile, distal part not dilated strongly.

The new species is closely related to *H. orientalis* Staudinger, 1901 (Plate: 2-3) and *H. kalchbergi* Staudinger, 1876 but differs from those in some features. The differences are: *nigritalis* much smaller (9.5-11 mm) than *orientalis* (12-14 mm); which is usually smaller than *kalchbergi*; its basic colour of fore wing is dark brown, without blackish patch on the costa at the base, dark medial lines not well visible, only their yellowish "ghost", subterminal not a dark line but a row of yellowish spots; hind wing also darker.

The other closely related species, *kalchbergi* is more similar in coloration to *nigritalis*, but essentially larger, fore wing wider, basic colour paler, medial lines well discernible and labial palp longer, not curved back as strongly as in the cases of the two other species.



Figs 1-2. *Hyphenodes nigritalis* sp. n. Male genitalia, Paratypes, Slides Nos. 1210, 155. - Fig.3. *Hyphenodes orientalis* Staudinger. Male genitalia, Hungaria, Gerla, Slide No. 932

The structure of the male genitalia of these three species is similar to each other, the differences - according to DUFAY (1972) - can be found mainly in their size. The valvae of *kalchbergi* are longer, than in the case of *orientalis*, aedeagus more elongate. The new species has the smallest genitalia, vinculum shorter, aedeagus more gracile, than that of *orientalis*.

The third species which has similar coloration and pattern, *balneorum* Alpheraky, 1880, belongs to another genus, *Schrankia* Hübner, 1825; the structure of its genitalia is similar to that of *costaestrigalis* (Stephens, 1834).

*Hyphenodes nigritalis* is known only from Melnik, SW Bulgaria, first stages and foodplant are unknown. The collecting site was a small garden in a dry brook-valley, near to shrubby forests and dry swards on sandstone rocks. All the specimens were collected on light (160 W mixed light lamp) in bad weather conditions (strong wind and full moon, temperature under 10° C).

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#### REFERENCES

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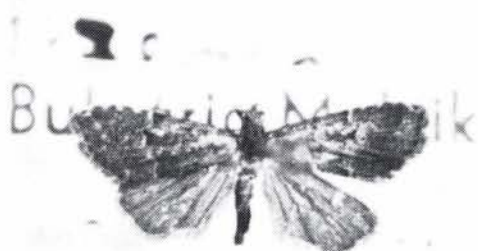
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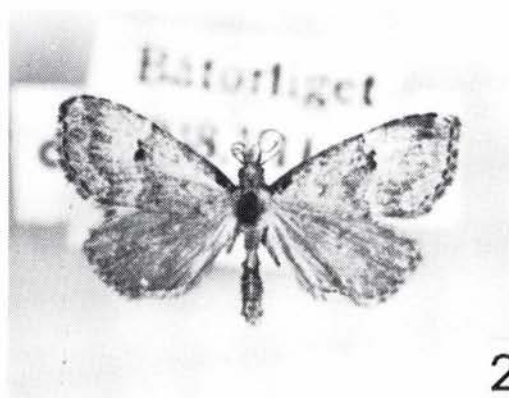
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Plate 1: 1. *Hypenodes nigritalis* sp. n. Holotype, Bulgaria, Melnik. 2. *Hypenodes orientalis* Staudinger. Male, Hungary, Bátorliget. 3. *Hypenodes orientalis* Staudinger. Female, Crimea.

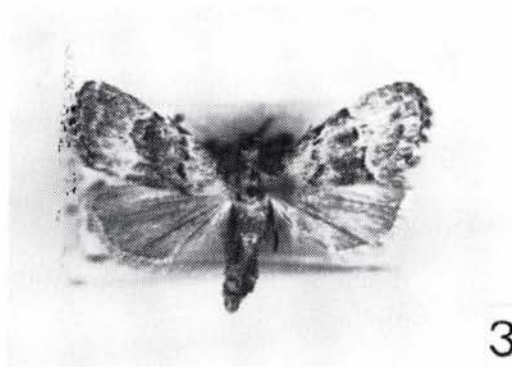




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