Mohacolora gen. n., a new genus of Ennominae (Lepidoptera, Geometridae) from South-East Asia, with description of a new species

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Abstract

The present paper contains the description of the new ennomine genus Mohacolora (Geometridae, Ennominae) and its type species M. bezverkhovi sp. n. (Vietnam, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal). A detailed description of the external morphological and genital characters of Mohacolora is given and the new genus is compared to the related genera Doratoptera Hampson and Descoreba Butler. Six colour photos of adult moths and 5 genitalia figures are provided.

Key words: Descoreba, Doratoptera, external morphology, pregenital abdomen, genitalia, duplicate juxta, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Vietnam

Introduction

A recent study of the SE Asian Geometridae material of the ZFMK, collected during the last two decades, revealed a series of a very peculiar, relatively large, but obviously undescribed Ennominae moth from N. Vietnam. The specimens showed, at first glance, some external similarity with certain species of Arichanna Moore by their dark mossy-green pattern elements on the forewings, but a closer look at other characters like antenna structure, scaling of the head, venation etc., revealed a closer relationship with the genera Doratoptera and Descoreba. The investigation and comparison of their genitalia also proved this, though the external appearance of the specimens was not even similar to the species belonging to the two abovementioned genera. Taxonomic studies carried out recently on Doratoptera and Descoreba (Sato et al. 2011; Sato & Fukuda 2014) confirmed again that the exact determination and classification of the species of this Ennominae group requires a detailed examination of their genitalia. They also showed that our newly discovered taxon, according to the basic structure of the male and female genitalia, in fact is a member of the Descoreba-Doratoptera generic complex, but represents a separate genus, with well defined, characteristic external and genital differences, named Mohacolora here. Subsequent studies of further available collections yielded additional specimens of the type-species, showing that it has a much wider geographic distribution than estimated before, occurring not only in Vietnam, but also in Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal.

Abbreviations

HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary
ZFMK Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany
ZSM Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Germany
LG, DS indicating genitalia slides made by Gy. M. László or D. Stüning
References
