

***Apamea permixta*, sp. n., from China
— the putative sister species of *Aommixta* (Butler)
(Lepidoptera, Noctuidae: Xyleninae: Apameini)**

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Abstract

Apamea permixta, sp. n., is described from the Provinces of Fujian and Guangdong, southeastern China. It appears to be the sister-species of the superficially similar *A. commixta* (Butler). It differs from the latter mainly in details of the structure of the male and female genitalia. The adult and male and female genitalia are illustrated, and a map of the distribution of both *A. permixta* and *A. commixta* is provided.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Apameini, China, new species, *Apamea*

Introduction

Apamea Ochsenheimer, 1820 (sensu lato) is one of the largest genera in the subfamily Xyleninae, tribe Apameini, according to the classification proposed by Fibiger and Lafontaine (2005), and includes about 150 species worldwide. It is distributed mainly in the Northern Hemisphere, with over 60 species currently recognized from the Holarctic region and about 90 in the Palaearctic region; a few species also are recorded from the Oriental and African regions (Zilly *et al* 2005). Some *Apamea* species, mainly from the mountain regions of East Asia, remain undescribed. The genus is most diverse in open steppe and mountain habitat in the southern part of the temperate zone. Most species are associated with open grasslands dominated by Poaceae, the host plant for the larvae of the great majority of *Apamea* species.

The genus *Apamea* (sensu lato) is well separated from other Apameini genera by the structure of the female ovipositor lobes, which are strongly sclerotized, broad, and dorso-ventrally flattened or lyriform, the latter without a subbasal lateral constriction (see Zilli,