



## A new species of *Platychasma* (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae) from China

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The notodontid genus *Platychasma* was established by Butler in 1881, and hitherto comprised only two species: *Platychasma virgo* Butler, 1881 and *P. flavida* Wu & Fang, 2003. The former is distributed in China, Japan and Korea (Sugi 1982; Park et al. 1999; Wu & Fang 2003a, b), while the latter is found only in China (Wu & Fang 2003a, b). During moth surveys in southern and central China, the authors collected several specimens with typical external features of the subfamily Platychasmatinae (antenna filiform, quadrifid forewing venation and forewing dorsum bidentate). However, the specimens collected differed from both *P. virgo* and *P. flavida* in several morphological features, notably the forewing shape and male genitalia. Following comparison with *P. virgo* from Japan and with the original description and illustrations of *P. flavida*, these Chinese specimens are hereby described as new, as follows:

### *Platychasma elegantula* Chen, Kishida & Wang sp. nov. (Figs. 1, 2, 5)

**Description:** Male. Head dark brown. Antenna filiform, brown; labial palpus yellowish brown, porrect and reaching beyond the frontal tuft, second segment with yellow scales, tip cuspidal; vertex covered with yellow to brown hairs; compound eyes naked and rounded, black. Thorax covered with dark brown long hairs uniformly. Thorax and the second segment of abdomen dorsally brown; abdomen primrose yellow. Tibia of legs fringed with long yellow brown hairs. Forewing length: 23–26 mm. Forewing broad and long; specimens collected in May with costal margin yellow (Fig. 2), in July brown; subterminal fasciae margined with yellow from middle to dorsum; costa straight, smoothly curved at base, less protruded outwardly basally than *P. virgo* and *P. flavida*; apex slightly pointed; termen rounded with serrated cilia at the end of each vein; tornus smoothly rounded; dorsum with two dentations, one of near basal area is large, and another near tornus is small. Hyaline cell at base of anal vein very large. Antemedial fasciae narrow, yellowish, inner margin dark brown basally, outer edge from cell to costa intermittent; medial fasciae two-ply, inner line yellowish, outer line brown; subterminal line ivory white, from near apex to tornus. Hindwing broad, ground color yellow, submarginal area covered with brown scales. Underside of the wings light yellow. Male genitalia (Fig. 5): uncus stubby, slightly concaved dorsally; gnathos with two crook-shaped branches, aculeated apically; tegumen high and narrow; valva narrow and long, with a slender ventral process apically; sacculus with a thumb-shaped process; juxta trapezium, posterior margin double reversed triangle; saccus trigonal, apex slightly rounded; aedeagus stout, heavily sclerotized, carina penis with several thorn like processes apically.

**Type Material:** Holotype: Male, Mao'ershan National Nature Reserve, Guilin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, 800m, 21 May 2007, leg. Liusheng Chen. Paratypes: 1 male, Mao'ershan National Nature Reserve, Guilin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, 15 May 2004, leg. Min Wang; 1 male, 4 May 2007, leg. Liusheng Chen, the same location as holotype; 1 male, Shunhuangshan National Forest Park, Dong'an County, Yongzhou City, Hunan Province, China, 21 May 2007, leg. Min Wang and Liusheng Chen. All type specimens are deposited in the Insect Collections of Department of Entomology, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, P. R. China.

**Distribution:** China (Guangxi Autonomous Region; Hunan Province).

**Etymology:** The name is derived from the Latin “elegantulus”, meaning slightly noble.

**Remarks:** The new species can be easily distinguished from *P. virgo* by the adult facies (Figs. 1, 2, 3), with a forewing costa that is straight and lacking basal swelling, and a median fascia of yellow to brown. The male genitalia of *P. elegantula* are similar to those of *P. virgo* (Figs. 5, 6), but differ as follows: the apex of the valva is smooth; the gnathos is smaller, short and crook-shaped, and about half the length of the uncus; the aedeagus is stout, with thorn-like processes apically.