



Strotihypera, a new Old World genus of the tribe Elaphriini (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Noctuinae)

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Abstract

A new genus *Strotihypera* **gen. n.** (type-species *Erastria flavipuncta* Leech, 1889) is described in the tribe Elaphriini, subfamily Noctuini from the Eastern Palaearctic. The new combination *Strotihypera flavipuncta* (Leech, 1889) **comb. n.** is introduced for *Hyperstrotia flavipuncta* (Leech, 1889) A review of the Old World genera *Strotihypera*, *Elaphria* and *Galgula* of the tribe Elaphriini is presented.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Noctuinae, Elaphriini, new genus, new combination, *Strotihypera*, *Elaphria*, *Galgula*, *Hyperstrotia*, review of genera, Old World, New World

Introduction

During the last two decades the classification of the higher taxa of the Noctuidae has undergone dramatic modifications. Among other changes, the large heterogeneous assemblage Erastrinae (sensu Hampson 1910), later called Acontiinae (sensu auctorum) has been divided into the subfamilies Acontiinae, Eustrotiinae, Boletobiinae, Aediiinae, Metoponiinae and Sinocharinae; some generic complexes were transferred to the subfamily Xyleninae (tribes Elaphriini and Pseudeustrotiini, currently tribes of the subfamily Noctuinae) and to other subfamilies (Speidel *et al.* 1996; Fibiger & Lafontaine 2005; Lafontaine & Fibiger 2006; Holloway 2009, 2011; Lafontaine & Schmidt 2010; Zahiri *et al.* 2010). However, the systematic position of some East Palaearctic and Oriental genera or groups of species formerly in Acontiinae (sensu auctorum) have remained uncertain. In particular, type species of some Oriental, Palaearctic and Nearctic taxa have still not been compared, creating uncertainty in classification of these groups.

In the course of our study of genera of the former subfamily Acontiinae (auct.) we found that the East Palaearctic species “*Hyperstrotia flavipuncta* (Leech, 1889), placed in Erastrinae by Hampson (1910) and to Acontiinae (auct.) by Sugi (1982), morphologically does not correspond to any genus of the modern subfamilies derived from Acontiinae (auct.); however, it has well expressed characters of “higher” triline Noctuidae and has affiliations to *Elaphria venustula* (Hübner, 1790), which was placed in tribe Elaphriini of the subfamily Xylenini by Fibiger & Hacker (2007), and later in the subfamily Noctuinae by Lafontaine & Schmidt (2010). After examination of the type of *Hyperstrotia aetheria* Grote, 1879, the type-species of the genus *Hyperstrotia* Hampson, 1910 and other materials kindly sent us by Martin Honey and Don Lafontaine, we have concluded that “*Hyperstrotia flavipuncta* is not congeneric with *Hyperstrotia aetheria*, but belongs to a different genus and subfamily. The structure of genitalia of both sexes of “*Hyperstrotia flavipuncta* shows relationships with Elaphriini, while *Hyperstrotia aetheria* is placed in the subfamily Phytometrinae by Lafontaine & Schmidt (2010), currently the tribe Phytometrini of the subfamily Boletobiinae (Holloway 2011; Zahiri *et al.* 2011). Don Lafontaine (pers. comm.) informed us that “*Hyperstrotia flavipuncta* does not match any known New World genera of the Elaphriini, although it clearly could be associated with that tribe.

The new genus *Strotihypera* **gen. n.** with type species *Erastria flavipuncta* Leech, 1889 is described below. Institutional acronyms are as follows: BMNH = Natural History Museum, London; CNC = Canadian National Collection, Ottawa; ZFMK = Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn.