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Preliminary list of the Lepidoptera of Zernek, with some faunistical, taxonomical, and molecular remarks (East Turkey, Van Province)

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Abstract: Preliminary list of the Lepidoptera of Zernek, with some faunistical, taxonomical, and molecular remarks (East Turkey, Van Province). *Misc. Pap.* 171: 1-16, 41 figs.

Totally 112 lepidopteran species of 18 families are reported from Zernek, with some illustrations. Among them 5 species are new to the fauna of Van Province. Eco-faunistic, taxonomic, and molecular remarks are also added to certain species.

Key words: Lepidoptera, fauna, Zernek, Van, Turkey



Figs. 1, 2 – Summer aspects of two habitats early in the morning from Zernek 1975m, M. Kemal (Cesa)

Zernek is an arid, mountainous area located at the northern slopes of Zernek Dam, eastern Van city. Natural plant cover of the studied places is highly degraded *Astragalus-Brometea*, and locally found grasslands, growing along with small mountain streams on the ophiolitic rocks (Çiftçi et al., 2008) (Figs. 1, 2).

The Lepidoptera fauna of Zernek is very little known. Recorded some irano-turanian elements in the studying area are highly interesting (*Hyponephele naricoides*, *H. cadusia*, *Euscrobipalpa* sp., *Gnophos gorgatus*, *Myrlaea nigrosquamalis*, *Eublemma caelestis*, *Zygaena tamara*). The spring and early summer fauna of the Lepidoptera are completely unknown. This short paper will be used in the future studies.

The present pictorial list comprises some results recorded previously from the area by the authors, or information published occasionally. In parallel with our taxonomical studies, DNA

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investigations are planned for the future. Therefore, some preliminary investigations and evaluations made in this regard are also mentioned in the following list. For this purpose, various publicly accessible data in the GenBank have been interpreted.

The photographs of the moths used here were taken at the studying area in the morning before sunrise. All the specimens were identified by the authors and preserved in the Cesa Collection (Ankara).

Lepidoptera of Zernek

Totally 112 species of 18 families are listed in alphabetical order. Among the moths, 5 species are reported here as new to the fauna of Van Province.

Butterflies

For the time being, the number of the butterfly species in Zernek is 38. This will certainly increase, after studying the vernal and pre-aestival fauna of the area.

Argynnidae

1. *Argynnis (Fabriciana) niobe* (Linnaeus,1758)
2. *Polygonia (Comma) egea* (Cramer,[1775])
3. *Vanessa (Cynthia) cardui* (Linnaeus,1758)

Hesperiidae

4. *Carcharodus (s.str.) alceae* (Esper,[1780])
5. *Muschampia proteides* (F.Wagner,1929)
6. *Pyrgus armoricanus* (Oberthür,1910)

Lycaenidae

7. *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus,1767)
8. *Lycaena (s.str.) phlaeas* (Linnaeus,1761)
Lycaena phlaeas: Koçak & Kemal, 2011a, *Cesa News* 66: 14 “65: Gürpinar: Zernek barajı 2000m 31 07 2001”.
9. *Lycaena (Thersamonia) kurdistanica* (Riley,1921) (Figs. 5, 6)
10. *Plebejus (Kretania) carmon* (Gerhard,[1851])
11. *Plebejus (s.str.) argus* (Linnaeus,1758)
12. *Polyommatus (Albulina (Vacciniina)) alcedo* (Christoph,1877)
13. *Polyommatus (Aricia (Ultraaricia)) crassipunctus* (Christoph,1893) (Figs. 7,8)
Second generation has been observed in the area. The species is represented there by the ssp. *mehmetcik* (Koçak & Kemal, 2002; Ten Hagen & Schurian, 2009).
14. *Polyommatus (Aricia (s.str.)) agestis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller],1775)

- 15.** *Polyommatus* (s.str. (*Agrodiaetus (Antidolus)*)) *antidolus* (Rebel, 1901)
- 16.** *Polyommatus* (s.str. (*Agrodiaetus (Damaia)*)) *hopfferi* (Gerhard, [1851]) (Fig. 9)
- 17.** *Polyommatus* (s.str. (*Agrodiaetus (Transcaspius)*)) *ninae* (Forster, 1956)
- 18.** *Polyommatus* (s.str. (*Agrodiaetus (Xerxesia)*)) *cyaneus* (Staudinger, 1899)
- 19.** *Polyommatus* (s.str. (*Thersitesia*)) *thersites* (Canterer, [1835]) (Fig. 10)
- 20.** *Polyommatus* (s.str.) *icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775)
- 21.** *Pseudophilotes vicrama* (Moore, 1865)
- 22.** *Satyrium (Armenia) ledereri* (Boisduval, 1848)
- 23.** *Satyrium (Nordmannia) abdominalis* (Gerhard, [1850])
- 24.** *Satyrium (Strymonidia) spini* (Fabricius, 1787)

Papilionidae

- 25.** *Papilio* (s.str.) *machaon* Linnaeus, 1758 (Fig. 11)
A full grown caterpillar (less pigmented summer form) was observed in the studying area, approaching to f. *albicans*.

Pieridae

- 26.** *Pontia edusa* (Fabricius, [1777])
Pontia edusa: Koçak & Kemal, 2011b, *Cesa News* 67: 12 “65: Gürpınar: Zernek barajı 2000m 31.07.2001”.

Satyridae

- 27.** *Chazara* (s.str.) *bischoffi* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1846])
Chazara bischoffi: Koçak & Kemal, 2011b, *Cesa News* 67: 13 “65: Gürpınar: Zernek barajı 2000m 31.07.2001”.
- 28.** *Chazara* (s.str.) *briseis* (Linnaeus, 1764)
- 29.** *Coenonympha* (s.str.) *pamphilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Locally found in grassy places.
- 30.** *Hyponephele* (s.str. (*Ereminephele*)) *naricoides* Gross, 1977
Locally found on the stony slopes.
- 31.** *Hyponephele* (s.str. (*Tengrinephele*)) *cadusia* (Lederer, 1869)
Locally found on the stony slopes. This species is represented around Zernek by the ssp. *zerneca* (Skala, 2003).
- 32.** *Hyponephele* (s.str.) *lupina* (Costa, [1836])
Locally found on the stony slopes.
- 33.** *Hyponephele* (s.str.) *lycaon* (Rottemburg, 1775)
Locally found on the stony slopes.

34. *Maniola (s.str.) jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Locally found in grassy places.

35. *Melanargia (Turcargia) hylata* (Ménétriés, 1832)**36. *Melanargia (Turcargia) syriaca* (Oberthür, 1894)****37. *Pseudochazara (s.str.) beroe* (Freyer, [1843])****38. *Pseudochazara (s.str.) pelopea* (Klug, 1832)**

Pseudochazara pelopea: Koçak & Kemal, 2011b, Cesa News 67: 19 "65: Gürpinar: Zernek barajı 2000m 31.07.2001".

This species was also illustrated from Zernek on 24.7.2011 by Kemal & Koçak, 2011: pl.16 fig.3).

Moths

Totally 74 species of families are listed here. The material was collected mostly by using light trap. Only a few species were observed by day. In the area, some arthropods (Araneida, Solifugae, Scorpionida, Mantodea) were frequently observed as nocturnal predators (Figs. 3, 4).

Some eco-faunistic, taxonomic, and molecular remarks are also added below to certain species.



Figs. 3, 4 – After attacking predators in Zernek, on 20.vii.2017. Rest of the various moth species (left), *Eremopeza saussurei* (Uvarov, 1918) described from Iran (Azerbaijan) (right). This species was previously recorded by the authors in Van Province, Çatak (Darboğaz). It is widely distributed in Iran. M. Kemal (Cesa)

Arctiidae**39. *Lacydes spectabilis* (Tauscher, 1806)**

An autumnal species. Adults nocturnal.

Cossidae**40. *Phragmacossia territa* Staudinger, 1878**

Adults nocturnal.

Gelechiidae**41. *Aroga* sp. (Fig.12)**

In Van Province, the genus is represented by two species, *aristotelis* and *kurdistana*. *Aroga aristotelis* is very common in the mountainous steppe in summer. The present species differs from both species mentioned above both externally, and the genital morphology (GP2895, GP2896,

GP2897, GP2901). A separate study about the *Aroga* species of the province has been planned including molecular comparison among the species.

- 42.** *Metanarsia incertella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1861)² (Fig.13)
A nocturnal species. New to the fauna of Van Province.

43. *Euscrobipalpa* sp.

A good series of this currently unidentified species were collected on xxxx. Its wingspan about 12mm. By using the external characters, i.e., bi-coloured forewing, well developed dark brown longitudinal median band, it may be easily recognized to some level. It is closer to *Euscrobipalpa perinii*³ from SE Europe, to *albostriata*⁴ from NW Iran, and *picta*⁵ from Afghanistan. Uncus longer than width, sacculus folds narrow and; therefore it seems closer to *picta* than the others. Geographically *albostriata* from NW Iran is the closest to this species, however, broader uncus and different shape of sacculus are important differences to be considered (Povolny, 2002). It is hard to decide about identity, and to go further without new complementary information.

- 44.** *Nothris radiata* (Staudinger, 1879)⁶
The identity of this species is based upon the genital morphology of the male, described by Karsholt & Sumpich (2015).
Material studied: 1♂ (GP2907). Van Province, Gürpınar, Zernek 1975m, M. Kemal & A. Koçak leg. (Cesa)
This species is new to the fauna of Van Province.

45. *Nothris verbascella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

- 46.** *Stomopteryx detersella* (Zeller, 1847)⁷ (Fig.14)
New to the fauna of Van Province.

- 47.** *Stomopteryx gaesata* (Meyrick, 1913)⁸ (Fig.15)
See: Kemal & Koçak (2015).

- 48.** *Streyella anguinella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1861)⁹ (Fig.16)

- 49.** *Syncopacma polychromella* (Rebel, 1902)¹⁰
See: Kemal & Koçak (2012).

Geometridae

- 50.** *Idaea aff. ochrata* (Scopoli, 1763) (Fig.17)
Diurnal-nocturnal in grasslands.

51. *Gnophos* (*Dicrognophos*) sp.

Adults nocturnal and common in Van Province. Its identity is not easy without reference work containing the genitalic illustration properly prepared. This group contains several externally similar species, inhabiting in East Turkey, Northern Iraq, Iran, and Caucasus. Wehrli (1953) illustrated upperside of wings of *snelleni* (northern Iran, Turkmenistan), *orthogonia* (Iran, and type-species of the subgenus *Dicrognophos* Whli.), *amanensis* (S. Turkey), *wiltshirei* (northern Iraq), *gorgata* (W. Iran), *elachi* (Iran), *chorista* (Iran), and *brandtorum* (Iran). Among them, the

² No molecular information in GenBank. In Boldsystems, a single record but publicly unavailable.

³ COI-5P:658 is available in the boldsystems.

⁴ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

⁵ A single specimen of this species is mentioned but without access publicly.

⁶ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

⁷ No molecular information in GenBank. In Boldsystems, a single record but publicly unavailable.

⁸ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

⁹ No molecular information in GenBank. In Boldsystems, 5 records but publicly unavailable.

¹⁰ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

holotypes of the following species described from Iran are preserved in Sweden Museum and illustrated externally in the internet site:¹¹ *brandtorum*, *elahi*, *gorgata*. According to the illustrated external features, *gorgata* is apparently confined to Hakkari and southern Van Province (Bahçesaray). On the other hand, it is also possible that *pseudosnelleni* described by Rjabov (1964) from Armenia, occurs in South-East Turkey. Although the male genitalia and external illustrations were given by Rjabov, there are still gaps in the identification of *pseudosnelleni*-like populations in SE Turkey. As a last word it can be said that a serious revision on this group is needed.

52. *Rhodometra sacraria* (Linnaeus,1767)

At least two generations are known in this region. Diurnal-nocturnal.

53. *Rhodostrophia (Asiotrophia) auctata* (Staudinger,1879) (Fig.18)

Remarks: Some publicly accessible data of the mtCOI features of the *Rhodostrophia* species of Turkey in the GenBank are here interpreted. Before doing this, the number of base substitutions per site from between sequences are shown. Analyses were conducted using the Kimura 2-parameter model (Srivathsana & Meiera,2012). The analysis involved 6 nucleotide sequences. Codon positions included were 1st+2nd+3rd+Noncoding. All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated. There were a total of 658 positions in the final dataset. Evolutionary analyses were conducted in MEGA6 (Kumar, Stecher & Tamura, 2016). First results on the estimates of evolutionary divergence between sequences are so:

vibicaria - *calabra* = 0.084; *auctata* - *calabra*=0.073; *iranica* – *calabra*=0.077; *discopunctata* - *calabra* =0.009; *sieversi* - *calabra* =0.070

These values reveal that *vibicaria* is the most ancestral species, comparing with the others. It may also be considered as a member of a distinct genus. In the nominate *Rhodostrophia*, *calabra* and *discopunctata* are a sister group. Comparing with them *sieversi* seems to be more ancestral species. Similarly, *nesam* (from Iran) and *auctata* are also ancestral species, respectively. The dividing *Rhodostrophia* into following subgenera, *Pellonia* (for *vibicaria*), *Pydna* (for the species, *badiaria*, *bahara*, *iranica*), *Asiotrophia* (for *auctata*), and the nominate subgenus (for *calabra*, *discopunctata*, and *sieversi*) is also supported by the preliminary molecular analysis (under preparation).

54. *Scopula beckeraria* (Lederer,1853) (Fig.19)

55. *Scopula orientalis* (Alpheraky,1876)

Both species widely distributed in eastern Turkey. Adults nocturnal.

Lasiocampidae

56. *Lasiocampa eversmanni* (Kindermann,1843)

Adults autumnal and nocturnal.

57. *Malacosoma castrensis* (Linnaeus,1758)

Noctuidae

58. *Calamia staudingeri* Warnecke,1941 (Fig.20)

59. *Chersotis (s.str.) fimbriola* (Esper,[1798])

60. *Dichagyris (Yigoga) truculenta* (Lederer,1853)

61. *Drasteria saisani* (Staudinger,1882)

¹¹ http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/b/

- 62.** *Episema lederi* Christoph, 1885
Adults autumnal and nocturnal.
- 63.** *Eublemma (albida-gr.) compunctum* (Lederer, 1872)
- 64.** *Eublemma (candidana-gr.) minutatum* (Fabricius, 1794)
- 65.** *Eublemma (candidana-gr.) pulchralis* (De Villers, 1789)
- 66.** *Eublemma (pallidula-gr.) pallidulum* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1856)
- 67.** *Eublemma (parva-gr.) parvum* (Hübner, [1808])
- 68.** *Eublemma (rosina-gr.) caelestis* (Brandt, 1938)
- 69.** *Eublemma (rosina-gr.) panonicum* (Freyer, 1840)
- 70.** *Eugnorisma (s.str.) eminens* (Lederer, 1855)
Adults autumnal and nocturnal.
- 71.** *Euxoa (s.str.) conspicua* (Hübner, [1824])
- 72.** *Euxoa (s.str.) homicida* (Staudinger, 1900)
- 73.** *Euxoa (s.str.) scurrilis* Draudt, 1937
- 74.** *Haemerosia renalis* (Hübner, [1813]) (Fig. 21)
- 75.** *Mythimna (Aletia) vitellina* (Hübner, [1808])
- 76.** *Rhypagla lacernaria* (Hübner, [1813])
- 77.** *Tholera decimalis* (Poda, 1761)
Adults autumnal and nocturnal.
- 78.** *Zekelita (Ravalita) ravalis* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1852]) (Fig. 22)

Pyralidae (s.l.)

Totally 26 species are recorded from Zernekl. This and further material to be collected will be evaluated separately. For this purpose, “*The Pyralioidea (Lepidoptera) of Van Lake Basin (East Turkey)*” has been submitted by the authors to the Van Yüzüncü Yıl University as a research project. This will comprise taxonomical and molecular evaluations of the related group. Such a study is urgently needed for not only for the Pyraloidea, but also for the whole Lepidoptera families of Turkey. See footnotes below.

- 79.** *Ancylosis hellenica* (Staudinger, 1870)¹²
- 80.** *Arsissa ramosella* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1855])¹³
- 81.** *Bradyrrhoa (s.str.) gilveolella* (Treitschke, 1833)¹⁴ (Fig. 23)

¹² No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

¹³ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

¹⁴ Molecular information are poorly represented in GenBank, and in Boldsystems.

- 82.** *Cadra furcatella* (Herrich-Schäffer,[1849])¹⁵ (Fig.34, 35)
- 83.** *Cynaeda (s.str.) gigantea* (Staudinger,1879)¹⁶
- 84.** *Ecpyrrhorhoe diffusalis* (Guenée,1854)¹⁷ (Fig.24)
- 85.** *Ephelis cruentalis* (Geyer,[1832])¹⁸
- 86.** *Epischnia* sp. (Fig.29)
- 87.** *Euzophera (s.str.) luculentella* Ragonot,1888¹⁹
Kemal & Koçak (2017) illustrated the adult moth, male genitalia tympanal organ, etc. of this species from Zernekl.
- 88.** *Hypotia colchicalis* (Herrich-Schäffer,[1855])²⁰ (Fig.25)
- 89.** *Keradere noctivaga* (Staudinger,1879)²¹ (Fig.26)
- 90.** *Mecyna subsequalis* (Herrich-Schäffer,1855)²²
- 91.** *Mecyna trinalis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller],1775)²³
- 92.** *Metacrambus carectellus* (Zeller,1847)²⁴ (Fig.27)
- 93.** *Metasia suppandalis* (Hübner,[1823])²⁵
- 94.** *Myrlaea albistrigata* (Staudinger,1881)²⁶
- 95.** *Myrlaea nigrosquamalis* (Amsel,1950)²⁷ (Fig.28)
Kemal & Koçak (2016) illustrated the male genitalia, abdominal segments, and tympanal organ of this species from Artos Mt. (Gevaş, Van Pr.). Nocturnal, usually sympatric with the previous species. It inhabits mountain steppe.
- 96.** *Nomophila noctuella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller],1775)²⁸
- 97.** *Paracorsia repandalis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller],1775)²⁹
- 98.** *Parapoynx stratiotatum* (Linnaeus,1758)³⁰ (Fig.29)
- 99.** *Pterothrixidia rufella* (Duponchel,1836)³¹ (Fig.30)
- 100.** *Pyralis perversalis* (Herrich-Schäffer,[1849])³² (Fig.31)

¹⁵ Molecular information is represented by a single record in GenBank. In Boldsystems, there is no record publicly assessible.¹⁶ No molecular information neither in GenBank. In Boldsystems, there is a single record publicly assessible.¹⁷ No molecular information neither in GenBank. In Boldsystems, there are two records from Italia publicly assessible.¹⁸ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.¹⁹ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²⁰ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²¹ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²² No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems, accessible.²³ No molecular information in GenBank; however, there are 3 accessible records from France and Italy in Boldsystems.²⁴ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²⁵ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²⁶ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²⁷ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.²⁸ Enough molecular information both in GenBank, and in Boldsystems.²⁹ Enough molecular information in Boldsystems.³⁰ Enough molecular information in Boldsystems.³¹ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.³² No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

101. *Pyrausta despicata* (Scopoli, 1763)³³**102.** *Stemmatophora brunnealis* (Treitschke, 1829)³⁴ (Fig. 32)**103.** *Tegostoma perlepidalis* (Guenée, 1854)³⁵**104.** *Udea praepetalis* (Lederer, 1869)³⁶**Sphingidae****105.** *Hyles euphorbiae* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 33)**Tineidae****106.** *Ateliotum hungaricum* Zeller, 1839 (Figs. 36-39)

Material studied: 1♂. Van Province, Tuşba, Ağarti 1950m (65Np2), GP2868. - 1♂. Van Province, Gürpinar, Zerneklı 1975m (65Gb), 20.7.2017. - 3♂. Van Province, Çatak, Saklıvadi 2030m (65Df), 25.7.2017, all M. Kemal & A. Koçak leg. (Cesa).

The species is new to the fauna of Van Province.

Tortricidae**107.** *Aethes* sp.**108.** *Eugnosta magnifica* (Rebel, 1914)**109.** *Pelochrista arabescana* (Eversmann, 1844)

New to the fauna of Van Province.

110. *Phalonidia contractana* (Zeller, 1847) (Fig. 40, 41)**Yponomeutidae****111.** *Yponomeuta malinella* (Zeller, 1838)**Zygaenidae****112.** *Zygaena (Mesembrynnus) tamara* Christoph, 1889

This species was illustrated from Zerneklı 2000m, on 31.7.2001, by Koçak (Kemal & Koçak, 2010: 28, fig. 40).

³³ Enough molecular information both in GenBank, and in Boldsystems.

³⁴ In Boldsystems, there are three records from Italia publicly assessible.

³⁵ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

³⁶ No molecular information neither in GenBank, nor in Boldsystems.

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Images from nature

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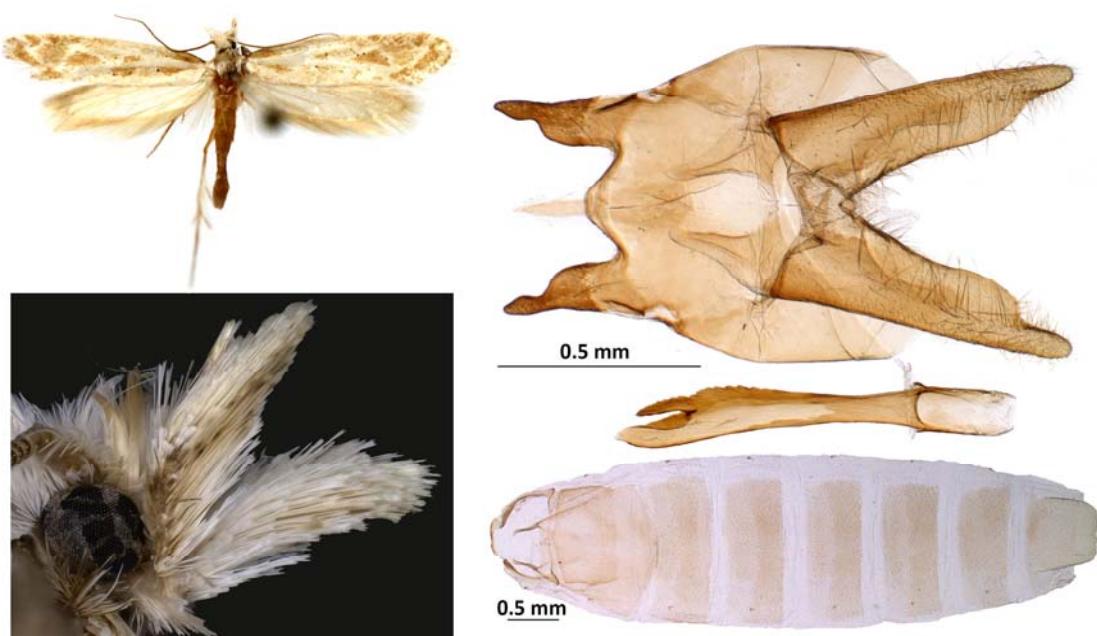
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