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Research Paper

REDESCRIPTION OF GENUS *TYCRACONA* MOORE (NOCTUIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA)

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Abstract

In the present communication, genus *Tycracona* Moore is redescribed by incorporating external male and female genitalic attributes in its diagnosis.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, *Tycracona* Moore, Recharacterization, India.

INTRODUCTION

Moore erected the genus *Tycracona* Moore [1] and Hampson designated *Tycracona obliqua* Moore as its type species [2]. Poole catalogued the only species, *Tycracona obliqua* Moore from cheera, Meghalaya as its distributional range [3]. In the present communication, the diagnosis of the genus has been upgraded by incorporating genital attributes. The study material i.e., representatives of *Tycracona obliqua* Moore were collected from far flung localities of Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total number of five representatives of *Tycracona obliqua* Moore have been collected with the help of mercury bulb light traps. The collected specimens were killed with the help of ethyl acetate vapours and processed as per standard techniques in Lepidopterology. The identification of captured specimens was done with the help of relevant literature [4].

OBSERVATIONS

GENUS *TYCRACONA* MOORE

Moore, 1882, *Descr. New Ind. Lep. Coll. Atkinson*, 2: 95.

Type specis: *Tycracona obliqua* Moore

Diagnosis: Proboscis fully developed; palpi upturned with the 2nd joint reaching up to vertex of head, 3rd porrect and short; frons with small rounded prominence at middle; antennae laminated. Abdomen with dorsal crest at base only. Fore wing triangular, the apex rounded, the termen evenly curved and slightly crenulate; veins Cu₁ and M₂ from near angle of cell; M₁ from upper angle; R₃ from R₂ anastomosing with R₄ to form the areole; R₁ from cell. Hind wing with veins Cu₁ and M₃ from angle of cell; M₂ obsolescent from middle of discocellulars; M₁ and Rs from upper angle; Sc+R₁ anastomosing with the cell near base only, the termen strongly curved (Fig. A & B).

Male genitalia: Uncus long, curved, simple, setosed, pointed; tegumen small, broad, inverted V-shaped; transtilla membranous; juxta long pointed on one side, bullet-shaped; vinculum V-shaped; saccus well developed, pointed, triangular; valve long, broader towards base, curves like tip of knife, saccular margin curved with a triangular small spine, costal margin concave;

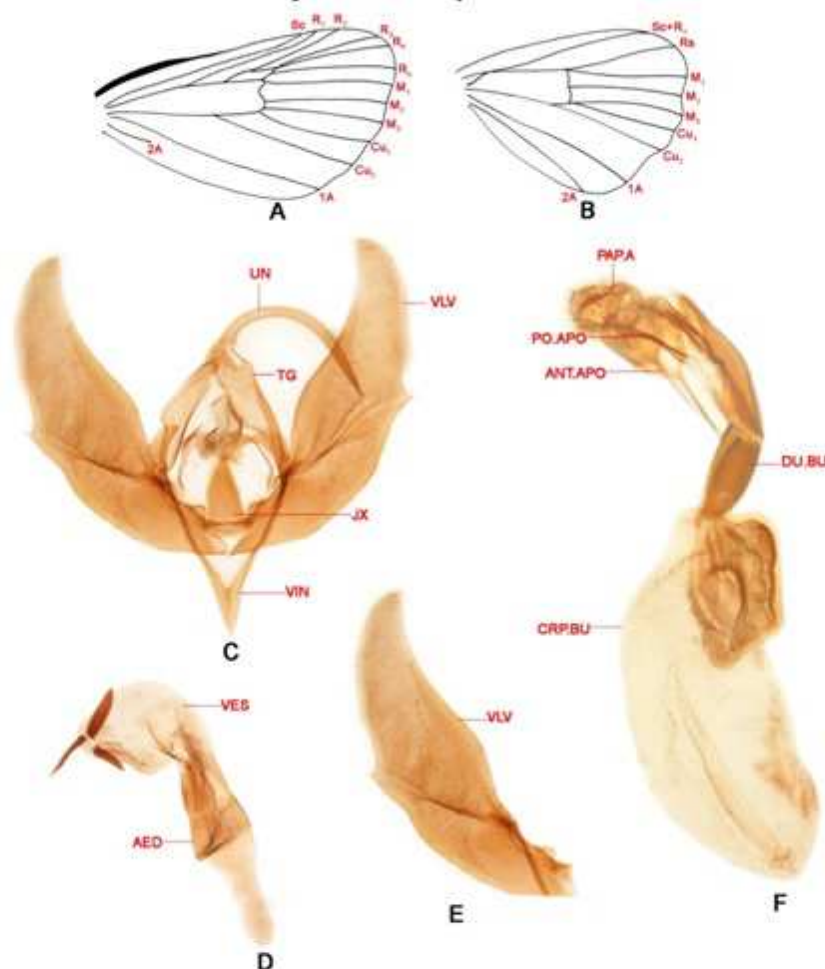
cucullus pointed towards tip; aedeagus small, swollen medially; vesica large, with three large, robust, spines at tip; ductus ejaculatorius enters into the aedeagus apically (Fig. C-E).

Female genitalia: Ovipositor lobes round, setosed; anterior apophysis longer than the posterior apophysis; ductus bursae small, strongly sclerotized; corpus bursae long, oval, somewhat spindle-shaped, upper half with a large irregular sclerotization patch; signum absent (Fig. F).

PLATE



Tycracona obliqua Moore



A. Forewing, B. Hindwing, C. Male genitalia, D. Aedeagus, E. Valva (Enlarged), F. Female genitalia,

***Tycracona obliqua* Moore**

Tycracona obliqua Moore 1882, *Lep. Atk.* : 95

Description: Head dark brown, irrorated with white scales; palpi pale brown and white from front; antennae smooth; collar brown with tips white. Thorax grey white, irrorated with brown. Forewing white, irrorated with dark brown; a short indistinct subbasal line and waved antemedial and postmedial brown lines; a dark brown fascia from middle of costa to centre of outer margin; subterminal area thickly irrorated with dark brown orbicular defined by brown, minute round. Hindwing pale fuscous. Underside pale white heavily irrorated with brown on termen; a discoidal bar in hindwing.

Material Examined:

Arunachal Pradesh: Hunli 18.ix.2011- 1♂, 1♀.

Mizoram: Hmuifang 25.ix.2012- 1♀; Mamit 13.ix.2012- 1♂.

Nagaland: Tuensang 03.v.2010- 1♀.

Distribution: India (Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland), Bhutan.

ABBREVIATIONS: AED: Aedeagus; PAP.A: Papilla anales; ANT.APO : Anterior apophysis; CRP.BU : Corpus bursae; DU.BU : Ductus bursae; PO.APO : Posterior apophyses; Cu1 : First cubital vein; Cu2 : Second cubital vein; 1A : First anal vein; 2A : Second anal vein; M1 : First medial vein; M2 : Second medial vein; M3 : Third medial vein; R₁ : First radial vein; R₂ : Second radial vein; R₃ : Third radial vein; R₄ : Fourth radial vein; R₅ : Fifth radial vein; Rs : Radial sector; Sc+R₁ : Stalk of Sc and R₁; JX : Juxta; TG : Tegumen; UN : Uncus; VES: Vesica; VIN :Vinculum; VLV : Valva.

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