

Scythris lempkei n. sp. from Southwest Europe (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)

BENG T. Å. BENG TSSON & GERARD R. LANGOHR

BENG TSSON, B. A. & G. R. LANGOHR, 1989. *SCYTHRIS LEMPKEI* N. SP. FROM SOUTHWEST EUROPE (LEPIDOPTERA: SCYTHRIDIDAE). - *ENT. BER., AMST.* 49 (5): 72-74.

Abstract: *Scythris lempkei* n. spec. is described from France and Spain; the species belongs to the *siccella*-species group.

B. Å. Bengtsson, Box 71, S-380 74 Löttorp, Sweden

G. R. Langohr, Pleistraat 20, 6369 AJ Simpelveld, The Netherlands

Introduction

Many scythridids are known to exhibit a peculiar genital morphology. Several species have such specialized genitalia that many structures are almost impossible to interpret. The phylogeny of the family Scythrididae is still obscure. A great number of species are not easy to place in a cladogram since the modified structures are difficult to homologize.

The present species, *Scythris lempkei* n. sp., may, however, be placed in the *siccella*-group, consisting of *siccella* (Zeller), *lafayrella* Passerin d'Entrèves, probably *pulicella* (Staudinger) and an undescribed species from Greece. The characteristic features of this group are (cf. Passerin d'Entrèves, 1986):

- small, dark moths, winglength 4-6 mm,
- small, rather compact male genitalia,
- uncus broad and rounded, more or less sclerotized,
- gnathos in asymmetrical position, prolonged and sclerotized terminally,
- tegumen and valvae asymmetrical, the former cup-shaped,
- aedeagus small, bottle-shaped,
- female genitalia with subtriangular, unevenly sclerotized sterigma,
- ostium bursae located to the left of centre, when viewed ventrally,
- sternum 7 in female concave caudally.

Scythris lempkei n. sp.

Type material

Holotype ♂ "France, Alpes de Ht Provence, L'Escale, 6.viii.1985, G. R. Langohr" (white label with altered date); (prep) "La 2140" (white label); "Holotypus, *Scythris lempkei* Bengtsson & Langohr" (red label). Genitalia mounted on slide Lngr. 2140. In coll. Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden.

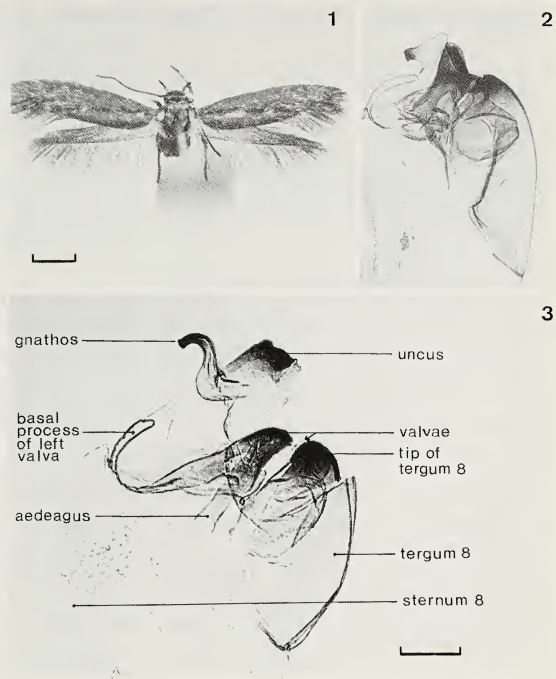
Paratypes. 1 ♂, France, Var, Massif de l'Estrel, 11.vi.1981, leg. G. R. Langohr, genitalia mounted on slide BÅB 248X, in coll. Langohr, Simpelveld; 1 ♂, Spain, Mallorca, Cala Ratjada, 24.v.[19]73, leg. J. Klimesch, genitalia on slide JK 1425, in coll. J. Klimesch, Linz am Donau; 1 ♂, Spain, Mallorca, Port Bou, 14.ix.1974, leg. J. Klimesch, genitalia on slide JK 1426, in coll. J. Klimesch.

Diagnosis

S. lempkei (fig. 1) is difficult to distinguish from other small, dark scythridids. *S. siccella* (Zeller), for example, seems to be practically identical with *lempkei* externally. The genitalia are, however, different (cf. Bengtsson, 1984, fig. 82).

Description

Wing expanse 8-9 mm. Head dark brown, sometimes with few slightly paler scales. Collar slightly paler than head, brown ochreous. Antennae short, only reaching midwing, coloration



Figs. 1-3. *Scythris lempkei* n. sp. 1, holotype; 2, paratype from Port Bou, male genitalia (scale as in fig. 3); 3, holotype, male genitalia with tentative interpretation (scale line fig. 1: 1 mm; figs 2-3: 0.1 mm).

as in head. Scape and first 1-4 (-8) segments paler underneath, dirty ochreous; the extension of the pale area depends on the angle of the light. Labial palpi comparatively small, curved, ascending, reaching middle of frons. Basal segment greyish ochreous in the basal third. Thorax and tegulae dark brown, the latter with paler posterior half. Abdomen dorsally dark fuscous, ventrally dirty white, the posterior margin of the segments fuscous. Legs not unicolorous; femur pale grey ochreous, tibia dark brown with plenty of brown ochreous scales, tarsus dark brown with few pale scales. Forewing with same ground colour as head, dark brown, with numerous brown ochreous scales, especially at apex and in fold, there forming two elongate spots. Hindwing dark brown, scales sparser towards base.

Male genitalia (figs. 2-3): The interpretation

of the genitalia is problematical and the explanations in fig. 3 may be regarded as tentative. Right valva (in fig. 3 partly hidden) weaker and less sclerotized than the left one; tegumen bowl-shaped, anteriorly ending in a pointed short process; uncus more strongly sclerotized posteriorly and with diminutive teeth; gnathos S-shaped, terminating abruptly and strongly sclerotized; aedeagus short and bottle-shaped. Tergum 8 an arched plate, posteriorly sclerotized and toothed or warty. Sternum 8 weak, membranous.

Female unknown.

Biology: Adults have been caught from late May till mid September. There is no information about the habitat of *S. lempkei*.

Distribution: Southern France, Spain (Mallorca).

Etymology: This species is dedicated to the

well-known Dutch lepidopterist Barend Lempke.

Acknowledgement

We owe a great debt to Dr. Jozef Klimesch, Linz am Donau, Austria, who kindly provided material, to Mr. E. Jäckh, Hörmanshofen, FRG, for giving us access to his photographic file of Palaearctic Scythrididae, and to Mr. Steven Whitebread, Magden, Switzerland, for correcting the English text.

Literature

- BENGTSSON, B.Å, 1984. The Scythrididae (Lepidoptera) of northern Europe. – *Fauna ent. scand.* 13: 1-137.
PASSERIN D'ENTRÈVES, P., 1986. Quatres nouvelles espèces paléarctiques du genre *Scythris* (Lepidoptera, Scythrididae). – *Nota lepid.* 9 (3/4): 216-224.

Accepted 14.ii.1989