

**A new species of the genus *Maliattha* WALKER, 1863
from South Primorye (Russian Far East)**

(Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

by

G. S. ZOLOTARENKO & V. V. DUBATOLOV

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Abstract: A new species of the genus *Maliattha* WALKER, 1863, *M. khasanica* spec. nov. is described from the Khasan district of Primorye (Maritime) territory. The new species belongs to the *Maliattha vialis* (MOORE, 1882)–*M. bella* (STAUDINGER, 1888) species group and does not differ from these species in wing pattern, but in characteristic male genitalia.

Резюме: Описывается новый вид рода *Maliattha* WALKER, 1863, *M. khasanica* spec. nov. из Хасанского района Приморского края. Новый вид принадлежит к группе видов *Maliattha vialis* (MOORE, 1882)–*M. bella* (STAUDINGER, 1888), от которых не отличим по окраске, но характеризуется своеобразным строением гениталий самцов.

During determination of moths collected in the Khasan district (South Primorye) in 1993, as well as in the collection of the Zoological Museum, Biological Institute, Novosibirsk, a new species of noctuid moth was found belonging to the species group *Maliattha vialis* (MOORE, 1882)–*M. bella* (STAUDINGER, 1888). A description of the new species is given below:

Maliattha khasanica spec. nov.

Holotype ♂: Southern Primorye, Khasan district, Furugel' Is., 13.VII.1975, VELIZHANIN leg. Paratypes: 2 ♂♂, same locality as the holotype, 12.–13.VII.1975, VELIZHANIN leg.; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Southern Primorye, Khasan district, Gamov Peninsula, Spaseniya bay, between Telyakovskii and Astaf'ev bays, 20.–31.VII.1993, DUBATOLOV & ZINTSHENKO leg.

Etymology

Named after the locus typicus.

Diagnosis

Small moths, forewing 8–9 mm in length (fig. 1a). Wing pattern not differing much from that of *M. bella* STGR. and *M. vialis* MOORE. On the contrary, the male genitalia is very peculiar (fig. 2a). Valva crescent-shaped, ventrally somewhat widened, narrowed to apex. Top of valva with 4 thin projections, each one bearing a strong sclerotized spine on the apex. Uncus thin along the whole length, slightly curved dorsally, with rounded apex. The uncus length almost twice as long as the valva width in apical part at bases of projections. Aedeagus straight, slightly broadened at the top, the apex bearing slightly sclerotized spines.



Fig. 1a: *Maliattha khasanica* spec. nov.,
paratype

Fig. 1b: *Maliattha bella* (STGR.)

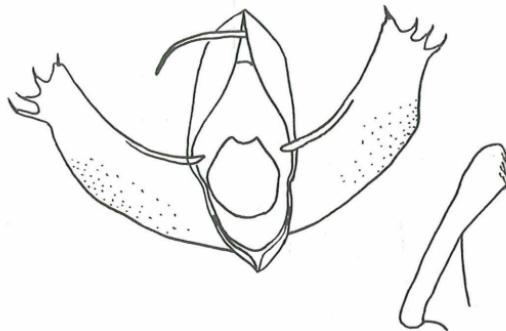


Fig. 2a: *Maliattha khasanica* spec. nov., holotype ♂, male genitalia.

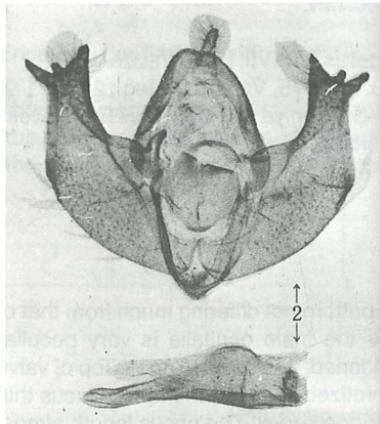


Fig. 2b: *Maliattha bella* (STGR.), male
genitalia (from: SUGI, 1982, pl. 374).

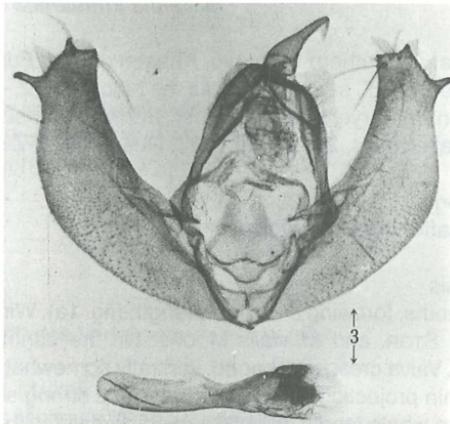


Fig. 2c: *Maliattha vialis* (MOORE), male
genitalia (from: SUGI, 1982, pl. 374).

Biology

Moths were collected in 1993 by light on a cordon of the Far East State Marine Nature Reservation on a bay coast covered with meadow vegetation. It seems that on Furugel'm Is. the moths were collected at a similar locality.

Remarks

The new species belongs to the genus *Maliattha* WALKER, 1863, that is distributed in Africa, Madagascar, South-East Asia, South Pacific (SUGI, 1982). A majority of East Asiatic species of the genus, i. e. *M. signifera* (WALKER, 1858), *M. arefacta* (BUTLER, 1879), *M. separata* WALKER, 1863 and *M. rosacea* (LEECH, 1889) (the latter known also from Primorye territory, see KONONENKO, 1990), differ well from *M. khasanica* spec. nov. by wing pattern (SUGI, 1982, pl. 197, figs. 7–15). Only *M. bella* (STGR.) (fig. 1b) from Amur region, Primorye and Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu) and *M. vialis* (MOORE) from India and Japan have the same wing pattern (SUGI, 1982, pl. 197, figs. 16–20) as the new species.

These three species are well distinguished only by the structure of the male genitalia (figs. 2a–c). The top of the valva of the new species bears four projections with long sclerotized spines, on the contrary, the valva tops of *M. bella* and *M. vialis* have three projections only, each one terminating by a small spine. The uncus of *M. bella* is small, its length being not larger than the valva width at the top; the uncus of *M. vialis* is long, but broadened from the middle to the base. The uncus of the new species is long and thin along its whole length.

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address of the authors

G. S. ZOLOTARENKO, V. V. DUBATOLOV

Zoological Museum

Institute for systematics and ecology of animals
Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Frunse street 11

630091 Novosibirsk

Russia

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Zolotarenko G. S., Dubatolov Vladimir V.

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