

Hollowaya - a new tiger-moth genus from New Caledonia

(Lepidoptera, Arctiidae)

by

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Abstract: The new genus *Hollowaya* gen. nov. is described for two species from New Caledonia: *Spilosoma lateritica* HOLLOWAY, 1979 and *Diacrisia lifuensis* ROTHSCILD, 1910. As different to all *Spilosoma* species, it is characterized by the presence of an apical notch at the uncus.

In a survey of the Lepidoptera of New Caledonia, HOLLOWAY (1979) attributed two species from this island to the genus *Spilosoma* CURTIS, 1825: *S. lateritica* HOLLOWAY, 1979 and *S. lifuensis* (ROTHSCILD, 1910). Nevertheless, according to the ♂ genitalia structure figured in the same survey, they differ noticeably from the *Spilosoma* species and could not be attributed to any known genera. The description of the new genus is given below.

Hollowaya gen. nov.

Genus type species: *Spilosoma lateritica* HOLLOWAY, 1979

Etymology: The new genus is named after the famous researcher of the Sundaland and New Caledonian moths, Dr. JEREMY HOLLOWAY.

Description: ♂ forewings white with two medial rows of blackish spots; hindwings white or rosy. Antennae bipectinate. ♂ genitalia (fig. 1): uncus like a narrow trapezoid with a distinct notch at apex. There is no visible "collar" of an enlargement of the proximal part of the tegumen. Valvae finger-like, with an enlargement at the base. Juxta transversal. Saccus broadly rounded. Aedeagus straight with a dentate field at vesica base. Everted vesica directed upwards.

Genus composition: *H. lateritica* (HOLLOWAY, 1979) **comb. nov.** from New Caledonia and New Hebrides (HOLLOWAY, 1979), originally described in *Spilosoma* CURTIS, 1825, and *H. lifuensis* (ROTHSCILD, 1910) **comb. nov.** from New Caledonia and Lifu, originally described in *Diacrisia* HÜBNER, [1819].

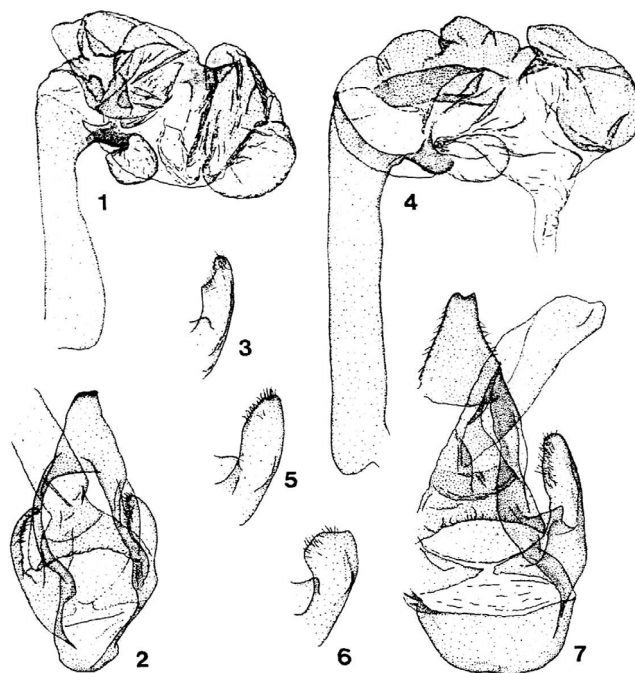


Fig. 1. Aedeagi and ♂ genitalia of *Hollowaya lifuensis* (ROTHSCILD, 1910) (1-2) and *H. lateritica* (HOLLOWAY, 1979) (3-7) from New Caledonia, taken from: HOLLOWAY (1979).

Notes: HOLLOWAY (1979) attributed both species of this genus to *Spilosoma* CURTIS, 1825, in error because of the presence of a distinct notch at apex of the uncus in *Hollowaya* gen. nov. species. This character is common with quite a different group of Oriental and Australian genera: *Areas* WALKER, 1855, *Aloa* WALKER, 1855 (s. str.), *Paramsacta* HULSTAERT, 1923, and *Micraloa* DUBATOLOV, 2004 that might show a relationship; nevertheless, all species of the latter genera have quite different valva structures (DUBATOLOV, HAYNES, KISHIDA, 2009; DUBATOLOV, 2004). HOLLOWAY (1979) also compared the two species from New Caledonia with the Australian *Ardices glatignyi* (LE GUILLOU, 1841) and *Spilosoma erythrastis* MEYRICK, 1886 later being transferred into the genus *Spilaethalida* DUBATOLOV, DE VOS et DAAWIA, 2007. Nevertheless, species of *Ardices* WALKER, 1855 and *Spilaethalida* DUBATOLOV et al. have no apical notch on the uncus (DUBATOLOV, 2005; DUBATOLOV, DE VOS & DAAWIA, 2007) and could not be treated as close relatives.

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