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Short report on the working progress on the systematics of the tribe Eupitheciini

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Galsworthy, A. C. & Mironov, V. (2009): Short report on the working progress on the systematics of the tribe Eupitheciini. Pp. 137 in: Hausmann, A. (ed.): Proceedings of the fifth Forum Herbulot 2008. Global strategies for plotting geometrid biodiversity in web-based databases (Munich, ZSM, 24-28 June 2008). – Spixiana **32/1**: 137

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We have been working together on Asian *Eupithecia* for five years. We have systematically collected as much as possible of the material available in Western countries, by way of loans to the Academy in St Petersburg and the Natural History Museum in London. The Zoological Institute in Beijing have also collaborated closely with us, and have made available to us material under their curation. We believe that we have now been able to examine the vast majority of material presently available in museums.

The major problem has been that for the two most prolific describers of *Eupithecia*, Dietze, at the beginning of the twentieth century, and Vojnits in the seventies and eighties, type material was not readily available, and descriptions were inadequate, and illustrations lacking or unclear. With the help of the National Museum in Hungary, we have managed to find about 95 % of Vojnits' type material. We have found a fair amount of Dietze's material, but need to do more work on this area. Most of it is probably in Berlin.

Mironov had earlier produced a book on European *Eupithecia*, and a number of papers on the Russian fauna. Our initial collaboration focussed on the Chinese fauna. We now think this comprises some 300 species, about 70 of which were undescribed. We have so far produced 5 papers describing 60 of these. There are undoubtedly many more species still to be discovered. We were able to synonymise about half of Vojnits' names.

This work led us to realise that we needed to look more widely at the Asian fauna, and Mironov spent three months in London in 2007 working with Galsworthy on the BMNH material, which enabled us to pin down most of the Butler, Warren, Walker, Swinhoe, Hampson, Leech and Prout species. Taking this together, and with the help of much material collected more recently, mainly by Hungarian and German collectors, we have produced papers on the Taiwan fauna, published in 2007 (7 new species, 3 new synonyms), and on the fauna of the Western Himalayas, with all three parts having been published this year (80 species covered, 14 new, and 30 names synonymised). Further papers are in draft on the South East Asian fauna and on that of the rest of the subcontinent. A further book-length manuscript on the Chinese fauna is in first draft, but still requires extensive work.

The major gap which this will leave is the fauna of the south west part of the continent, from Iran to the coast of the Mediterranean. If we ever finish this, the next target will probably be the African fauna.

Although we have been able to distinguish some coherent species groups within *Eupithecia* (we recognise about 45 at present), and are seeking to arrange as much as possible of the fauna within these groups, we have not thought it sensible to attempt to split up the genus, despite its large size. There are a few species still included which probably do not belong there, including the famous Hawaiian fauna, which is carnivorous in its larval stages, and we will attempt to deal with these in future work.

The geometrine moths of China

Hongxiang Han & Dayong Xue

Han, H. X. & Xue, D. Y. (2009): The geometrine moths of China. Pp. 137-138 in: Hausmann, A. (ed.): Proceedings of the fifth Forum Herbulot 2008. Global strategies for plotting geometrid biodiversity in web-based databases (Munich, ZSM, 24-28 June 2008). – Spixiana **32/1**: 137-138

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Spixiana, Zeitschrift für Zoologie

Jahr/Year: 2009

Band/Volume: 032

Autor(en)/Author(s): Galsworthy Anthony C., Mironov Vladimir

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