

***Pseudocryptolechia*, a new genus from South Russia**

(Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae)

by

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Summary: A new genus is described for the remarkable species known before as *Cryptolechia sareptensis* MÖSCHL. The species was known prior to the present time only from the suburbs of the city of Volgograd.

Introduction

Many years ago one rare species was described from Sarepta (now the vicinity of the city of Volgograd) under the name *Cryptolechia sareptensis* MÖSCHLER, 1862. Since that time it was mentioned only once for Hungary (SPULER, 1910), but later this information was considered as doubtful (GOZMÁNY, 1958). Therefore, now we have only one real place for this species (Sarepta) and 5 specimens (4 ♂♂ and 1 ♀), collected there and deposited (including the holotype) in the Museum of Natural History at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

The investigation of male genitalia of this species shows that it cannot stay in the genus *Cryptolechia* ZELLER, 1852, as it has not gnathos in the form of a spinuliferous plate as true *Cryptolechia* or *Cephalispheira* BRUAND, 1850 (= *Cryptolechia* auct.) species. Without doubt this species is a real Oecophoridae moth, but the peculiarity of its external appearance and genitalia structure makes it impossible to include it in any known genus. For this reason I describe a new genus for this species:

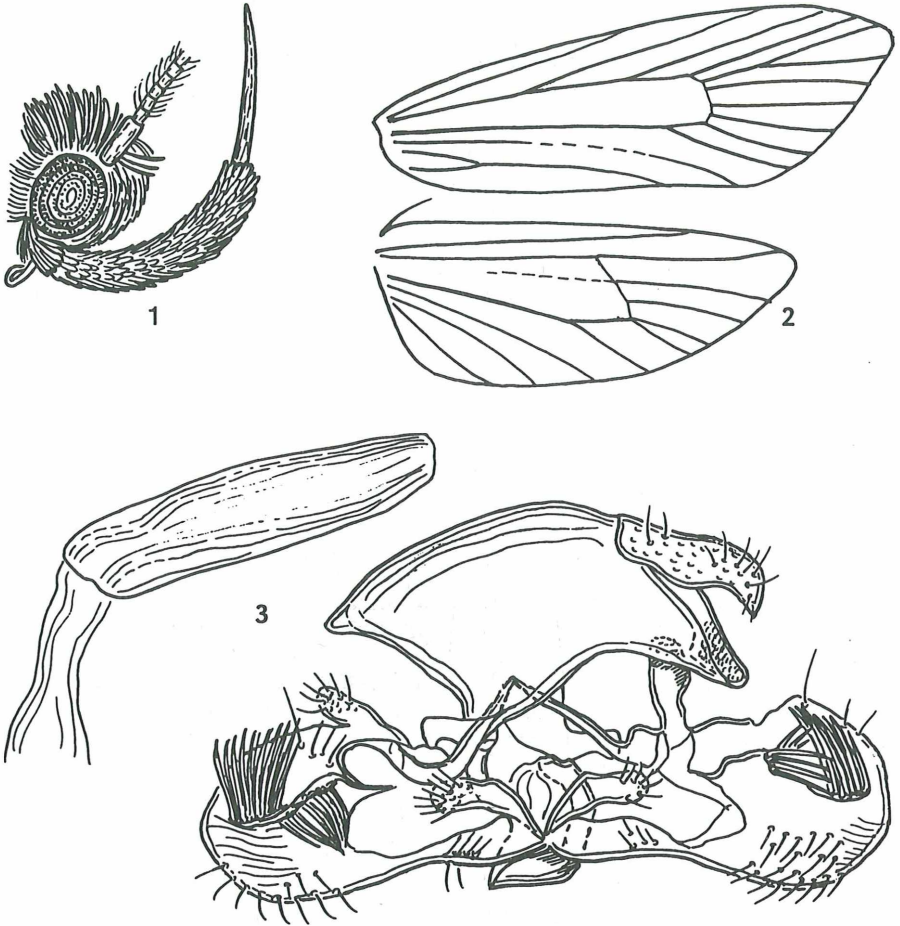
***Pseudocryptolechia* gen. nov.**

Type species: *Cryptolechia sareptensis* MÖSCHLER, 1862.

Description

Antennae approximately half as long as the forewing costa, with noticeable cilia in the male and without them in the female. Basal segment of antennae with pecten. Labial palpi rather large and recurved (fig. 1). Middle segment moderate narrow and half as long again as the apical one. Proboscis very small. Wingspan 17–22 mm. Wings moderate wide, forewings light yellow; hindwings light grey with white fringe, which is noticeably narrower than the plate of hindwing. Venation as in fig. 2.

Male genitalia (fig. 3). Uncus and gnathos as in typical Oecophoridae. Valva with wide and rounded apex and 2 bunches of thick bristles on it. Upper margin of valva with membranous process in the middle and narrow sclerotized process at base, forming the transtilla. Juxta membranous. Saccus sclerotized, in the form of a scoop. Aedeagus without cornuti.



Figs 1-3: *Pseudocryptolechia sareptensis* MÖSCHLER, ♂: 1 - head; 2 - wing venation; 3 - genitalia (holotype).

Female genitalia (fig. 4). Ovipositor moderate long. Antrum membranous, in the form of a funnel. Ductus of bursa copulatrix wide. Bursa copulatrix with 2 signa in form of 2 curved spines with rounded bases.

Distribution

European Russia: Sarepta near Volgograd.

Unfortunately we do not have any information about the time of flight, neither in the original description, nor on the labels of the moths.

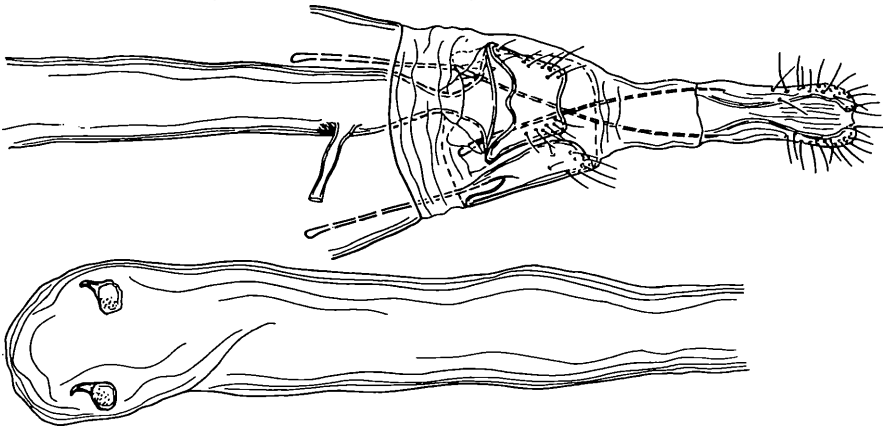


Fig. 4: *Pseudocryptolechia sareptensis* MÖSCHLER, ♀: genitalia.

Genus monotypical, with only one species: *P. sareptensis* (MÖSCHLER, 1862).

Diagnosis

The new genus has some resemblance in structures of male and female genitalia with the genus *Carcina* HÜBNER, 1825, from which it differs well in the short antennae and the large labial palpi. The male genitalia differs in the shape of the valvae and 2 bunches of large, thick bristles. The female genitalia differs in the presence of 2 signa.

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