

Some notes about *Cucullia platinea* RONKAY & RONKAY, 1987

(Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

by

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This article presents the picture and description of the genitalia of male *Cucullia platinea* RONKAY & RONKAY for the first time. Colour illustrations of male and female *Cucullia platinea* as well as the most recent data on the distribution of this species are published here for the first time as well.

In 1986 FABIAN, HREBLAY, PEREGOVITS and RONKAY found one female *Cucullia* specimen in the suburbs of Ulan Bator (Mongolia), which subsequently was described as a representative of a new species (*Cucullia platinea* RONKAY & RONKAY). To our knowledge, that was the only known specimen of this species detected until recently. In 2002 M. DANILEVSKY and O. GORBUNOV collected 9 specimens of this species in South-East Mongolia (Mongolia, East Gobi Aimak, 23 km SE Khatan-Bulak 43° 04'N 109° 25'E, 1000 m altitude 8.IX.2002) (fig. 1). On the basis of this material we present the description of the appearance and genitalia of the male which was not known until now.

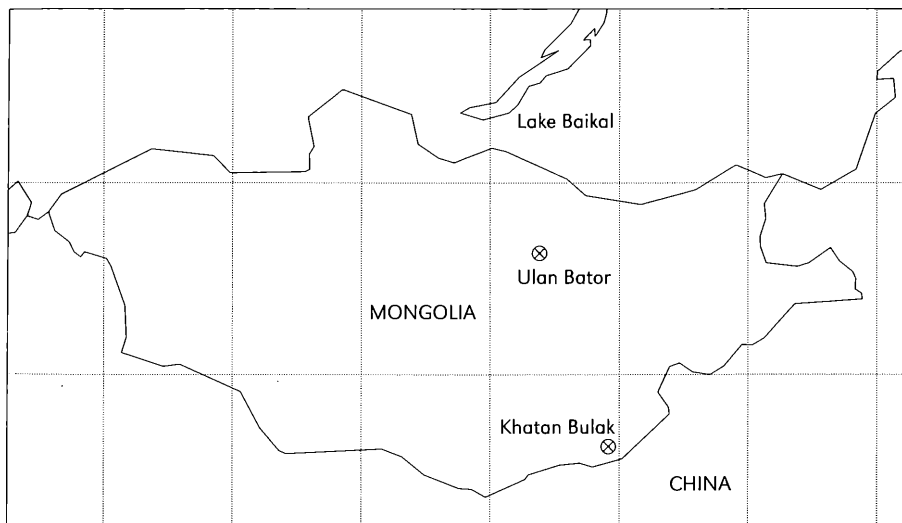


Fig. 1: Map of Mongolia (⊗ finding places of *Cucullia platinea*).

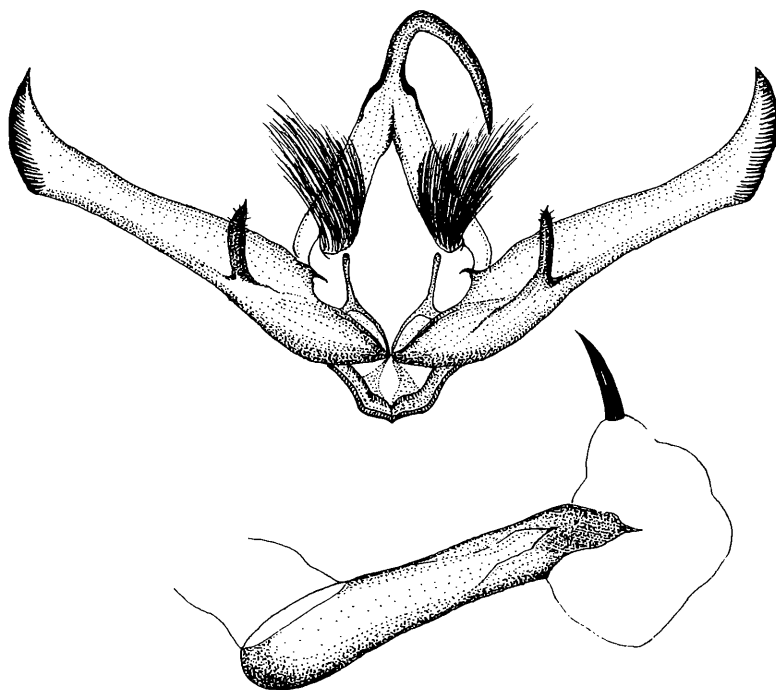


Fig. 2: Male genitalia of *Cucullia platinea*: a – genitalia; b – aedoeagus.

Six male specimens. Length of the forewing 14–16 mm, 3 female specimens (14.5–16 mm). The appearance of the male specimens fully corresponds to the description of the female specimen (col. pl. XIVb, figs. 1, 2) given by RONKAY & RONKAY (1987). However, some individuals are devoid of the black spot in the centre of the cell. Other spots indicated in that description (a double black spot in the orbicular and one at the upper angle of the cell) are characteristic of all the specimens studied.

Description of male genitalia (figs. 2, 3)

Uncus slender and curved at base. Tegument wide, fultura inferior with tapering apex, vinculum very short and v-shaped.

Valva elongate, slightly widening in the ventral part at the base of the harpe, distally straight and slender. Cucullus narrow and high, apex obtuse. Sacculus short, clavus narrow and long, apically widening, rounded. Harpe symmetrical, thorn-like, arcuate. Apically pointed.

Aedoeagus short, cylindrical, terminating in a granulose plate, finely dentate. Vesica consisting of a large diverticulum, bearing a long, pointed cornutus and a large dorsally recurved sac.

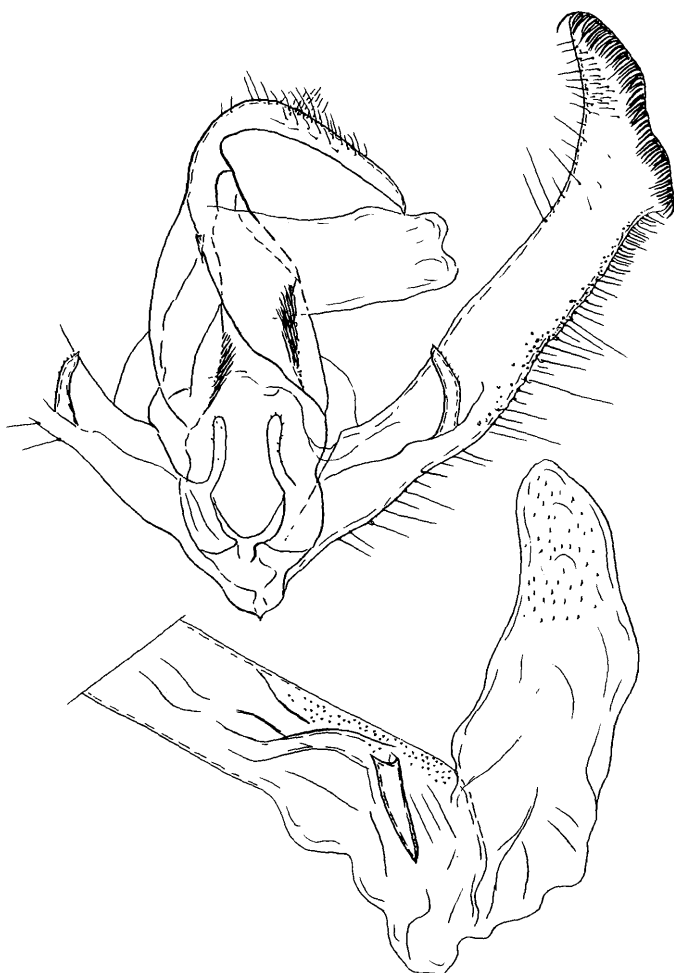


Fig. 3: Male genitalia of *Cucullia platinea*: a – genitalia; b – aedeagus $\times 36.79$ (another specimen, same place).

The collected material seems to suggest that the flying season of *Cucullia platinea* is the end of summer. Moreover, its distribution (most probably throughout all the eastern part of Mongolia) is likely to be wide. RONKAY & RONKAY's statement that *Cucullia platinea* is sympatrically akin to the species *Cucullia splendida* STOLL (RONKAY & RONKAY, 1994) (col. pl. XIVb: figs. 3, 4) proved to be right, as both of them were collected at the same time and locality.

Acknowledgements

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Explanation of colour plate XIVb (p. 281):

- FIG. 1: *Cucullia platinea* (male).
 FIG. 2: *Cucullia platinea* (female).
 FIG. 3: *Cucullia splendida* (male).
 FIG. 4: *Cucullia splendida* (female).

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