

A new subspecies of *Sumeria dipotamica* TAMS, 1938 from North Oman

(Lepidoptera, Notodontidae)

by

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Zusammenfassung: Eine neue Unterart der Notodontidae, *Sumeria dipotamica flavoalata* **subspec. nov.**, wird aus dem Oman, Umgebung Nizwa, beschrieben. Die ♂-Genitalstrukturen der neuen Unterart, sowie die ♀-Genitalstrukturen der von Mesopotamien beschriebenen Nominatunterart werden erstmals abgebildet und eine abgrenzende habituelle Diagnose beider wird gegeben. Das von WILTSHERE (1957) beschriebene punktuelle Vorkommen der Art in den Oasengärten eremischer Gebiete-Mesopotamiens konnte auch für den Oman bestätigt werden. Ferner werden Nachweise der Falter für die Monate Oktober, Dezember und April erbracht, was auf eine wohl ganzjährige Flugzeit in mindestens zwei Generationen schließen lässt.

Summary: A new subspecies of Notodontidae *Sumeria dipotamica flavoalata* **subspec. nov.** from North Oman, Nizwa, is described. Its ♂ genital structure and the ♀ genital structure of the nominate subspecies from Mesopotamia is described and illustrated for the first time. Both subspecies are compared and their characteristic diagnostic differences are illustrated. The appearance of the moth in oases and town gardens of Eastern Eremic areas mentioned by WILTSHERE (1957) can also be confirmed as true for Oman. Furthermore, records for October, December and April suppose a flight period all over the year in at least two generations.

الخلاصة: تصنیف نوعی جدید لـ *Notodontidae Sumeria dipotamica flavoalata* من شمال عمان، نیزوا، يوصف وهو تركيب تناسلي ذكر يحبب ويصور. إن التصنیف النوعي الجديد بالمقارنة مع برشح تصنیف نوعی من الخليج الفارسي وهو اختلافات تشخیصیة مميزة مصورة. ظهور العث في حانق البلدة وواحات مناطق شرق ارمیک (Eastern Eremic) ذكر من قبل ویلتشرایر (1957, Wiltshire) يمكن ایضاً ان یؤکد کھقینی لعمان. علامة على ذلك، سجلات لدیسمبر/كانون الاول واکتوبر/تشرين الاول وابریل/نیسان یفترضان فترة طیران في جميع انحاء السنة في الاقل جیلين.

Sumeria dipotamica flavoalata **subspec. nov.**

Holotype ♂ (colour plate. 21, fig. 1): North Oman, close to Nizwa city, Majan guest house, N 22°53'11", E 57°31'34", 500m, 8. X. 2004, leg. GÖRGNER, E & H. FISCHER.

Paratypes: 5 ♂♂, the same locality as holotype, 3.-16.X. 2004, leg. GÖRGNER, E. & H. FISCHER; 4 ♂♂, the same locality as holotype, 14.-29.XII. 2003, leg. GÖRGNER, E. & H. FISCHER; 4 ♂♂, the same locality as holotype, 27.III.-6.IV. 2004, leg. STRÖHLE, M. & H. FISCHER; 1 ♂, the same locality as holotype, 10.II. 2005, leg. STRÖHLE.

The holotype and 8 paratypes are deposited in coll. FISCHER (Tegernsee), 1 paratype is deposited in coll. SALDAITIS (Vilnius), 5 paratypes are deposited in coll. STRÖHLE (Weiden i. d. Opf.).

Etymology: The new subspecies is named after its sand - like yellow coloured forewings.

Description ♂ (colour plate 21, fig. 1): Alar expanse 40–43 mm, 42 mm in holotype; body length 24–26 mm; antenna yellow, with long pectinations reaching almost apex. Upperside of forewing sand - like yellow unicoloured, covered with simple and longer specialized scales between. Labial palpus, thorax and all tarsi covered with long scales in the same colour allover. Outer margin of forewings with long almost white scales embraced. Veins R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and even M₁ of forewings step by step stalked in agreement with definition of the genus by TAMS (1938). Upperside of hindwing yellowish white unicoloured, veins covered with little darker scales. Abdomen densely covered with long yellowish white scales, anal tuft almost white with very long and specialized scales. Underside of all wings buffly unicoloured with a pinkish white sheen.

♂ genitalia (figs. 1–4): Valva conspicuously devided, smaller part much more sclerotized, covered with some long and simple setae. Uncus short, gnathos biloped, well developed and one third shorter than tegumen-uncus-complex, saccus rounded. 8th sternite almost quadratic. Aedoeagus almost as long as valva, rounded and well sclerotized. The ♀ is unknown.

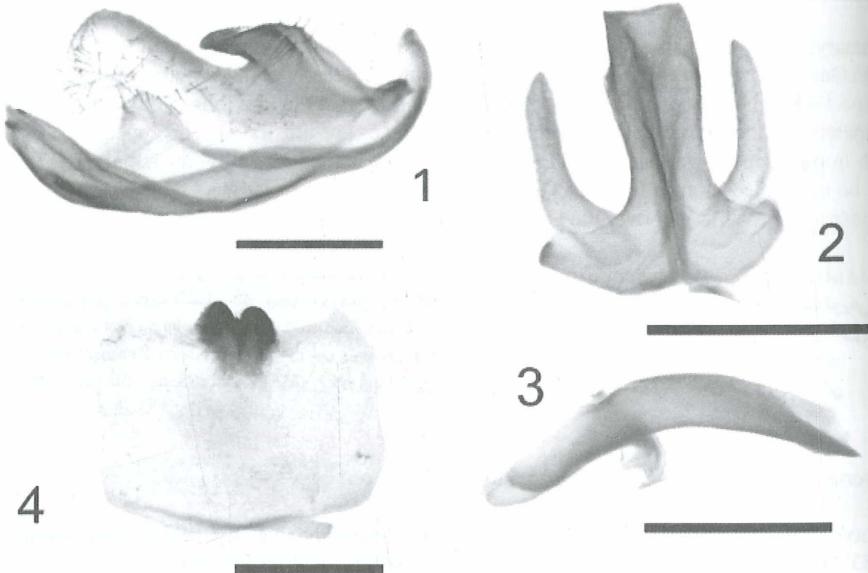


Fig. 1–4: *Sumeria dipotamica flavoalata* subspec. nov., paratype ♂, valva, tegumen, uncus and gnathos, aedoeagus, and 8th sternite. Scalebars: 1 mm.

♀ genitalia (fig. 5): Papilla analis short and broad, covered with short simple hairs. 8th sternit very short but strong sclerotized. Anterior apophysis remarkably long, biloped basally and strongly sclerotized. Posterior apophysis one third in length of anterior apophysis and less sclerotized. Ductus bursae very long and thin, especially on base. Corpus bursae consisting of a very transparent skin without diagnostic features.

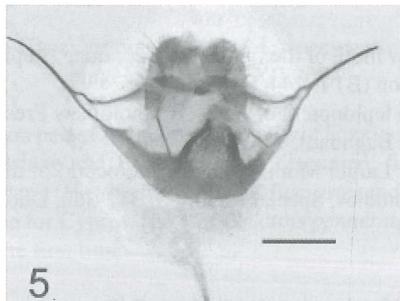


Fig. 5: *Sumeria dipotamica dipotamica* TAMS, 1938, ♀ genitalia.

Scalebar: 1 mm.

Diagnosis: The new subspecies shows sand - like yellow coloured scales on forewings and thorax in comparison to the greyish appearance of the nominate subspecies described from Mesopotamia (col. pl. 21, figs 3, 4). Also antenna are much more bright yellow in *S. dipotamica flavoalata subspec. nov.* The thorax is also broader and more sturdy. Abdomen of *S. dipotamica flavoalata subspec. nov.* is much more longer and reaches 19 mm in holotype including anal tuft (14 mm in specimens of *Sumeria dipotamica dipotamica* TAMS, 1938). In alar expanse *S. dipotamica flavoalata subspec. nov.* surpasses the nominate subspecies 2-3 mm averagely. Between both subspecies the shape of forewing also differs, showing more surface and being broader in diameter in *S. dipotamica flavoalata subspec. nov.*

Discussion: TAMS (1938) described the species listing holotype and 4 paratypes from Iraq and 2 paratypes from Iran (only ♂♂). Later also the ♀ is figured by WILTSHERE (1957) who confirms the ecological facts that are now observed in Oman. *S. dipotamica flavoalata subspec. nov.* is separated from the nominate subspecies by the Persian Gulf and the Arabian desert. The senior author could collect a few specimens of the new subspecies on three trips to North Oman at one locality only. It proves to be an indolent flyer by inhabiting only town gardens near Nizwa with date palms and other large-foliaged plants like WILTSHERE (1957) has described from Bagdad and Basra in Irak. It appears (also only ♂♂) in the first half of night on bright lamps close to irrigated areas. Considering the records of the first specimens of the new subspecies known from Oman (Wahiba Sands) for January and March (WILTSHERE, 1989), a flight period all over the year in at least 2 generations can be supposed. WILTSHERE figured the new subspecies from Oman in one ♂ only but considered the population as nominate subspecies (WILTSHERE, 1989).

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Colour plate 21

Fig. 1: *Sumeria dipotamica flavoalata* subsp. nov., holotype ♂, North Oman, close to Nizwa city, Majan guest house, N 22°53'11", E 57°31'34", 500m, 08. X. 2004, leg. GÖRGNER, E & H. FISCHER.

Fig. 2: *Sumeria dipotamica dipotamica* TAMS, 1938, ♂, Iran, Prov. Hormozgan, Hajjiabad, 1400m, 14. IV. 2004, leg. BENEDEK, HÁCZ.

Fig. 3: *Sumeria dipotamica dipotamica* TAMS, 1938, ♀, Iran, Prov. Hormozgan, Hajjiabad, 1400m, 14. IV. 2004, leg. BENEDEK, HÁCZ.

Farbtafel 21/ Colour plate 21

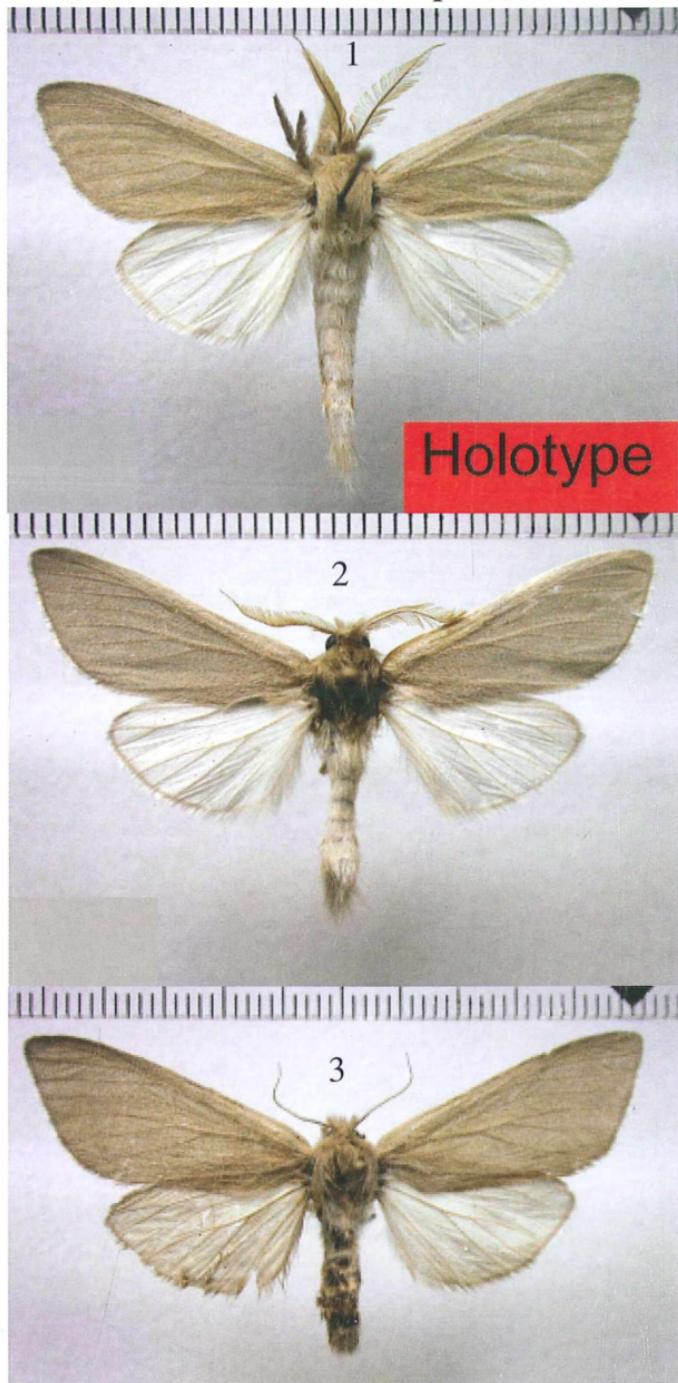
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Farbtafel 21/ Colour plate 21



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