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Holcocerus witti – a new species from NW Iran

(Lepidoptera, Cossidae)

by

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Abstract: *Holcocerus witti* YAKOVLEV, SALDAITIS & IVINSKIS **spec. nov.** is described from NW Iran (prov. Azarbaijan-E-Sharqi).

A small series of a new species from the recently revised genus *Holcocerus* STAUDINGER, 1884 (YAKOVLEV, 2006) has been detected in A. SALDAITIS personal collection. The new species resembles to *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884, but has significant external and genital differences. *Holcocerus persicus* AUSTAUT, 1897 was described from one ♀ specimen collected in Bairam-Ali (Turkmenia, Mary velayat) and it is a junior subjective synonym of *H. holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884 described from Ashabad.

Holcocerus ***witti*** **spec. nov.** (colour pl. 22: 1–2)

Holotype ♂: Iran, prov. Azarbaijan-E-Sharqi, 10 km NW of Miyane, 11–15.06.2005, leg. P. GYULAI & A. GARAI (Museum Witt, München [MWM])

Paratypes 9 ♂♂, same data (MWM, coll. ROMAN YAKOVLEV and AIDAS SALDAITIS).

Description: Forewing length 13 - 15 mm. Thorax and abdomen densely covered with light hairs. Forewings short and broad, completely white, with silvery gloss and white cilia. Hindwings greyish, with white cilia. Underside of forewings and hindwings covered with greyish coating. ♂ genitalia (figs. 1, 2): Uncus triangular, with a small hook at the apex. Tegumen medium-sized. Arms of gnathos comparatively long, when fused form a small gnathos covered with small spines. Valvae broad, gradually tapering toward the apex. Their distal ends in comparison with proximal ones are weakly sclerotised. A small, half rounded bulge is located on the costal side of valva, on the limit between its sclerotised and membranous parts. Processes of transtilla broad at the base, gradually narrowing toward the apex, slender, tapered and hooked at the apex. Juxta small, with lateral projections tapering toward the apex. Saccus half rounded, compact. Aedeagus bent, slightly shorter than valva, slender, gradually tapering apically. Opening of vesica located dorso-apically, measuring one third of aedeagus length.

Diagnosis: The new species differs in the ♂ from *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884 (figs. 3, 4) by: 1. broader and shorter forewings (colour pl.22: 3),
2. silvery gloss of forewings,
3. dark hindwings,
4. grey coating on hindwings,

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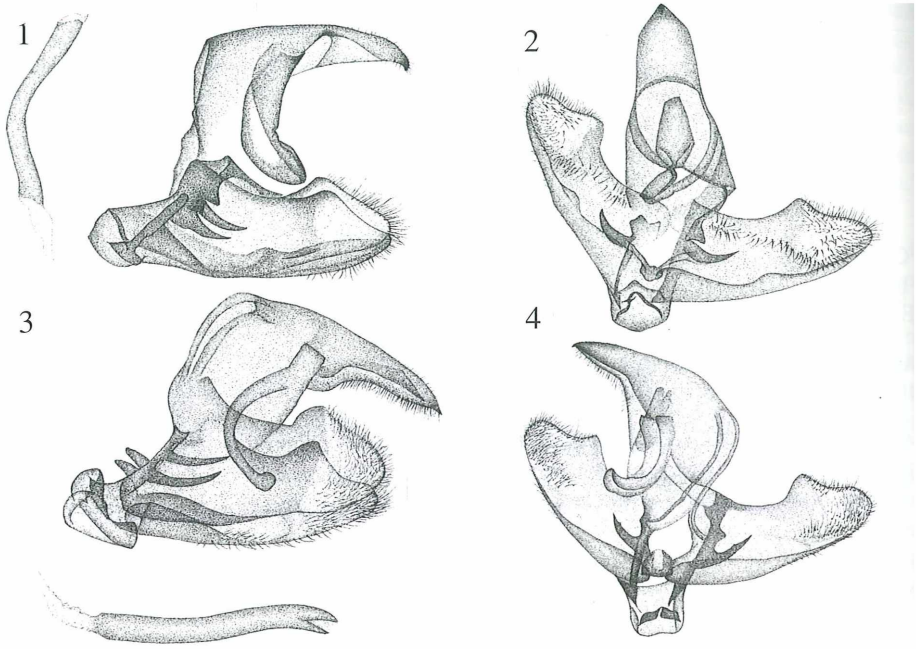
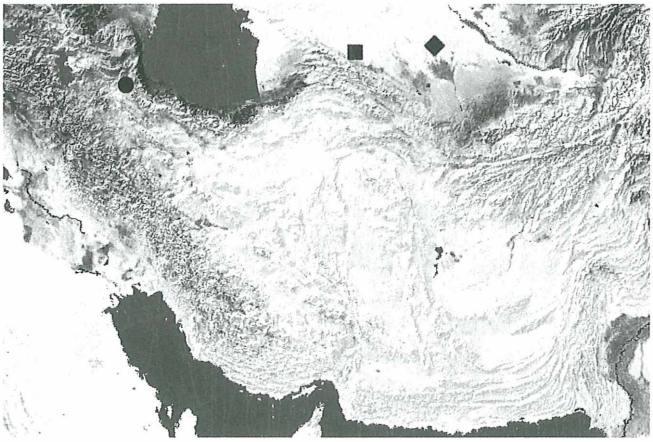


1: ♂ Genitalia of *Holcocerus* ***witti*** **spec. nov.**, lateral view.
2. ♂ Genitalia of *Holcocerus* ***witti*** **spec. nov.**, ventral view.
3. ♂ Genitalia of *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884, lateral view.
4. ♂ Genitalia of *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884, ventral view.



5. Distribution of *Holcocerus* ***witti*** **spec. nov.** (marked with an ●), ■ ♂– type locality of *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, ◆ - type locality of *Holcocerus persicus* AUSTAUT, 1897.

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5. distribution range (fig. 5) - *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884 is widely distributed in Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan, northwestern China, Afghanistan and Iran. The new species is endemic to the Azarbaijan-E-Sharqi velayat. Together with the other species of the genus *Holcocerus* - *H. didmanidzae* YAKOVLEV, 2006 and *H. rjabovi* YAKOVLEV, 2006 - it forms a group of species in southern Transcaucasia that have a narrow distribution range.
6. ♂ genital structure: a small buldge on the costal side of valva and bent aedeagus.

Etymology: The species is named in honor of THOMASWITT, a well-known lepidopterist, a compiler of the largest private Macroheterocera collection of the World, and who celebrated his 60th anniversary in 2007.

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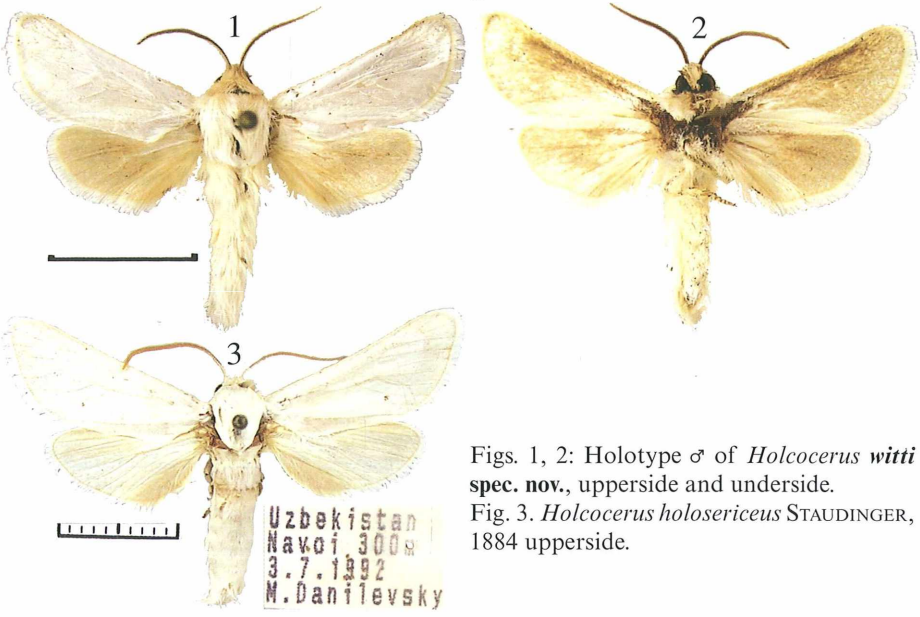
Colour plate 22



Figs. 1, 2: Holotype ♂ of *Holcocerus* ***witti*** **spec. nov.**, upperside and underside.
Fig. 3. *Holcocerus holosericeus* STAUDINGER, 1884 upperside.

Colour plate 22A/ Farbtafel 22A

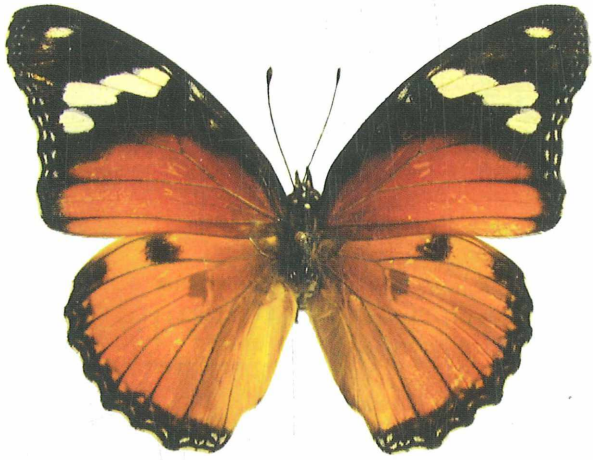


Figure 2. *Hypolimnas misippus* (LINNAEUS, 1764) ♀, Kfar Aabîda (144.4° N, 255.3° W), Lebanon, 6.IV.2003, X. MERIT leg.

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