

Cossidae (Lepidoptera) of the Canary Islands

by

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Abstract: This paper presents new data about the Cossidae fauna of the Canary Islands, which amounts to just three species: *Wiltshirocossus aries* (PÜNGELER, 1902) is recorded for Canaries for the first time, while *Stygia nilssoni* **spec. nov.** is described; the last taxon, *Dyspessa* **spec.** was recorded by BAEZ (1998). The latter author also noted *Stygia hades* LE CERF, 1924, but the specimens belong to *Stygia nilssoni* **spec. nov.**, according to the published figure.

There have been two main papers devoted to the fauna of Canarian Macro-Heterocera (REBEL, ROGENHOFER, 1894; BAEZ, 1998), the second of which includes two species of Cossidae: *Stygia hades* LE CERF, 1924 and *Dyspessa* **spec.** Working with the recently collected specimens deposited in the collection of A. SALDAITIS, we found that at least three species of Cossidae populate these islands.

1. *Wiltshirocossus aries* (PÜNGELER, 1902) (col. pl. 26: 1)

Cossus aries PÜNGELER, 1902, Dt. Ent. Z. Iris 15: 145, Taf. 6, Fig. 22.

Type locality: Palestine (Jerusalem) [Israel]

Type material (cotypes) in Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität (Berlin, Germany).

Distribution: S. Spain, Mauritania, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt (YAKOVLEV, 2007). The first record for the Canaries.

Material: 1 ♂, Fuertaventura, Cosra Calma, 11.3.88, F. HOFER.

2. *Stygia nilssoni* **spec. nov.** (col. pl. 26: 2, fig. 1)

Material: Holotype ♀, Spain, Islas Canarias, Gran Canaria, Puerto de Mogan, 19.07.1985, Museum WITT, München. Paratypus: 1 ♀, Gr. Canaria, Bco d. Moya, 100 m., 23.7.1977, P. STADEL N., The Natural History Museum of Denmark.

Description: Holotype forewing is 13 mm in length. Antennae bipectinate. Rami thin and as long as the width of antennal segment. Abdomen and thorax covered by grey hairs. Forewing broad with a rounded apex, greyish near the corner but with a narrow white discal band obscured by brownish scales. Another band is situated externally from the latter, while the ground-colour is grey-brown with even margins. A further narrow white band, with several grey-brown dots, is placed at the border of postdiscal and submarginal areas. Submarginal area grey-brown with a net-like lighter pattern near the wing margin. Forewing margin is grey-brown, one mm in width. Fringes a plain grey-brown.

Hindwing rounded, grey-brown with a lighter pattern consisting of whitish net-like areas situated in the discal and postdiscal areas. Fringes a plain grey-brown.

♀ genitalia (fig. 2): Ostium short, funnel-shaped; ductus membranous, thin, short. Bursa sack-shaped, signa absent. Ductus seminalis membranous, rather broad, coming into the corpus bursae not far from the ductus. Apophysis (posterior and anterior) not long, approximately equal in length. Papillae analis semi-rounded, broad. ♂ unknown.

Diagnosis. The new species differs well from the related *Stygia hades* LE CERF, 1924 (col. pl. 26: 3) (type locality: Itzer, Maroc [Morocco]) and *S. mosulensis* DANIEL, 1965 (col. pl. 26: 4) (type locality: Iraq, Mosul). The dark colouration as a whole recalls *S. hades*, but the development of the separate bands is more similar to the pattern of *S. mosulensis*. These bands are even more distinctive and contrasting, and are a specific feature. The grey colouration of the hindwing is also very different from both related species. The female genitalia provide few taxonomically important characters, as is so far known for the complex: we also did not find any important differences when comparing it with the available study preparations or figures of the genitalia of other taxa (DE FREINA & WITT, 1989).

Etymology. The new species is named after Mr. DANNY NILSSON (Kalvehave, Denmark), a famous Danish entomologist.

Note: *Stygia hades* LE CERF, 1924 was previously recorded for Canaries (Tenerife, Gran Canaria) by BAEZ (1998). However, according to the published figure (fig. 56), the studied material belongs to the new species described above.

3. *Dyspessa* spec.

Recorded by BAEZ (1998: 206) only. We have not seen the original specimens.

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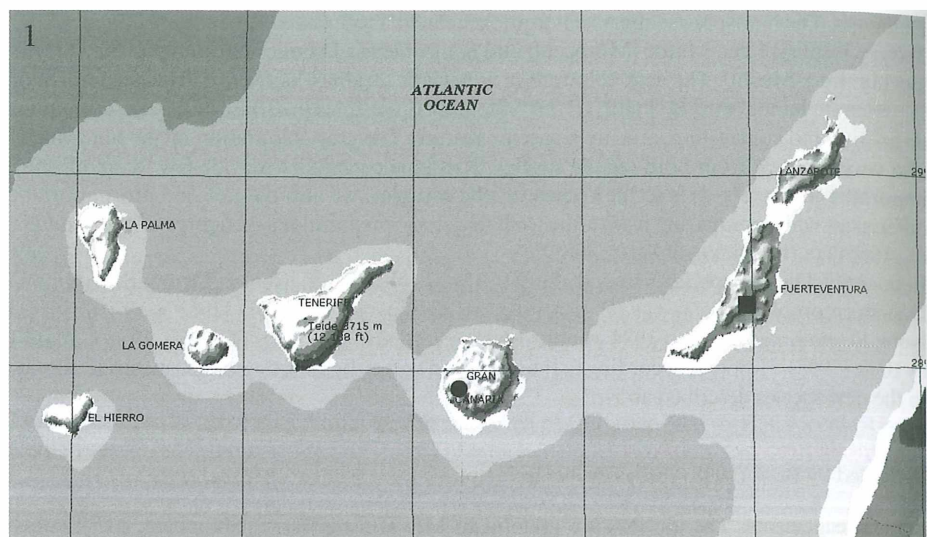
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REBEL, H. & A. ROGENHOFER (1894): Zur Lepidopterenfauna der Canaren. – Ann. K.K. Naturhist. Hofmus. **9**: 1–96, Wien.
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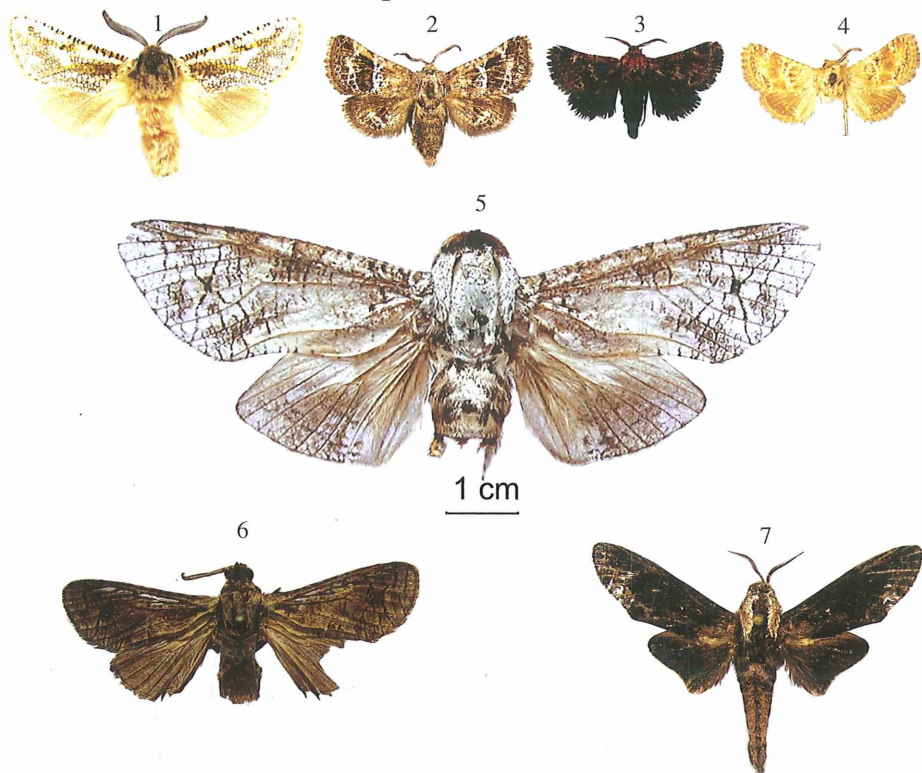
1. Distribution of *Stygia nilssoni* **spec. nov.**

2



2. Genitalia of holotype of *Stygia nilssoni* **spec. nov.**

Colour plate 26/ Farbtafel 26



- 1: *Wiltshirocossus aries* (PÜNGELER, 1902), Fuertaventura, Cosra Calma (collection of AIDAS SALDAITIS, Vilnius, Lithuania).
- 2: *Stygia nilssoni* **spec. nov.**, holotype (MWM).
- 3: *Stygia hades* LE CERF, 1924, holotype (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France).
- 4: *Stygia mosulensis* DANIEL, 1965, paratype (MWM).
- 5: *Cossus cirrulator* LE CERF, 1919, holotype (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France).
- 6: *Cossus breviculus* MABILLE, 1879, holotype (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France).
- 7: *Rambuasalama augustasi* **spec. nov.**, holotype (MWM).

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