

## ***Rambuasalama augustasi* gen.nov. et spec. nov. of Cossidae from Madagascar**

(Lepidoptera, Cossidae)

by

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**Abstract:** This paper includes the description and diagnosis of *Rambuasalama* gen. nov. (type species: *Rambuasalama augustasi* spec. nov.) from Central Madagascar (type locality: Ranofamana, 40 km NE of Fianarantsoa).

The Cossidae species have not been well investigated in Madagascar. Only two genera of the subfamily are known: *Hirtocossus* SCHOORL, 1990 [type species: *Cossus cirrillator* LE CERF, 1919 (col. pl. 26: 5), includes 2 species] and *Planctogystia* SCHOORL, 1990 (type species: *Cossus breviculus* MABILLE, 1879 (col. pl. 26: 6), includes 5-7 species] (SCHOORL, 1990). Both genera are endemic on the island.

The ♂, which can not be attributed to any known genus of Cossinae on Madagascar or in the territories of continental Africa, was found in the material recently collected by S. MURZIN (Moscow). The holotype is deposited in the THOMAS WITT Museum (München, Germany) (MWM).

### ***Rambuasalama* gen. nov.**

Type species: *Rambuasalama augustasi* spec. nov. (col. pl. 26: 7, figs: 1–2).

Description: A medium-sized butterfly. Antennae short (their length is 1/3 of the length of the forewing) and bipectinate. Abdomen and thorax densely covered by dark scales. Abdomen long, relatively slender. Forewing long, narrow, and lanceolate. Hindwing with a well developed anal angle. Wings dark, the colour pattern plain.

The ♂ genitalia (fig. 1) is typical for the subfamily. Uncus short, narrow, with a pointed apex. The tegumen is noticeably larger than the uncus. Gnathos arms are of medium width, of fused form, with a relatively large gnathos covered by small spines. Valvae broad and long (a quarter of the whole valva's length) with a rounded apex, their distal ends membranous. The costal margin of each valva bears a relatively small crest with a complex shape and a serrated margin. Arms of transtilla long, thin and hook-shaped. Juxta relatively small with two long thick lateral processes. Saccus relatively small and semicircular. The vesica opening occupies a dorso-apical position and comprises about half of the length of the aedeagus; cornutus absent.

Diagnosis: The new genus differs from all other representatives of the Madagascarian Cossidae by the long and narrow forewing, and the well developed anal angle at the hindwing, which even recalls Sphingidae in some aspects. The ♂ genitalia are characterized by the unusual shape of the uncus, which is very short, it being much narrower than the tegumen.

Etymology. New genus is named after Prince RAMBUASALAMA, who ruled Madagascar during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

*Rambuasalama augustasi* spec. nov.

Material: Holotype ♂, Madagaskar, Ranofamana, 40 km NE Fianarantsoa, 900 m, 30.12.-3.01.2004, leg. S. MURZIN & A. SHAMAEV (MWM).

Description: Holotype forewing length 21 mm, wings average 44 mm. Hindwing length 11 mm. Abdomen and thorax densely covered by dark scales. Tegulae greyish. Forewing blackish, only the cubital area being noticeably slightly paler, with a net-like pattern at the hind angle. Hindwing short, blackish, with well developed anal angle.

Genitalia as described above.

♀: Unknown.

Etymology: The new genus is named after AUGUSTAS, the son of the second author of the present paper.

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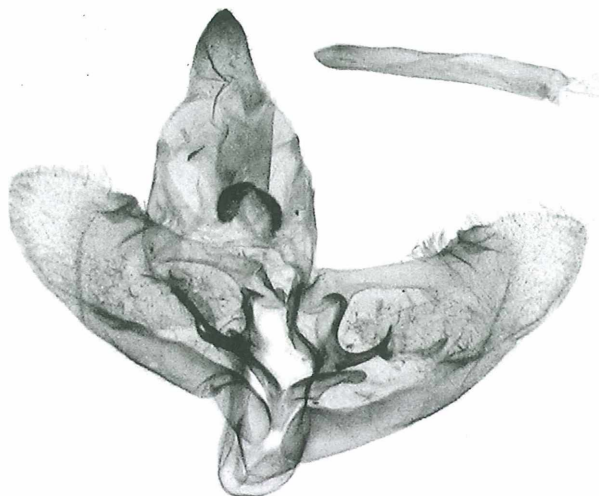
### References

SCHOORL, J. W., (1990): A phylogenetic study on Cossidae (Lepidoptera: Ditrystia) based on external adult morphology. - Zoologische Verhandelingen 263: 1-295, 1 t., Leiden.

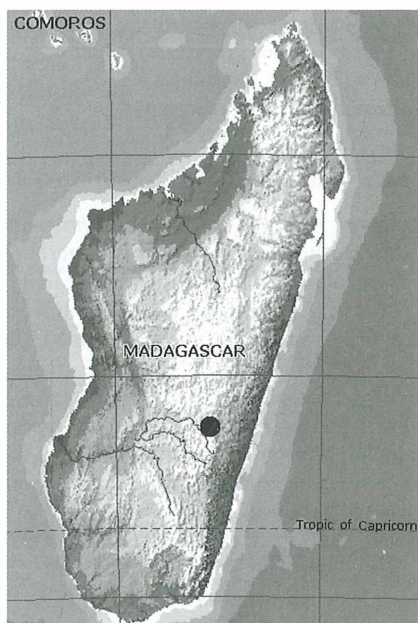
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1: Genitalia of holotype of *Rambuasalama augustasi* gen. nov. et spec. nov.



2: Type locality of *Rambuasalama augustasi* gen. nov. et spec. nov.

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