

Hollowaya - a new tiger-moth genus from New Caledonia

(Lepidoptera, Arctiidae)

by

VLADIMIR V. DUBATOLOV

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Abstract: The new genus *Hollowaya* gen. nov. is described for two species from New Caledonia: *Spilosoma lateritica* HOLLOWAY, 1979 and *Diacrisia lifuensis* ROTHSCHILD, 1910. As different to all *Spilosoma* species, it is characterized by the presence of an apical notch at the uncus.

In a survey of the Lepidoptera of New Caledonia, HOLLOWAY (1979) attributed two species from this island to the genus *Spilosoma* CURTIS, 1825: *S. lateritica* HOLLOWAY, 1979 and *S. lifuensis* (ROTHSCHILD, 1910). Nevertheless, according to the σ genitalia structure figured in the same survey, they differ noticeably from the *Spilosoma* species and could not be attributed to any known genera. The description of the new genus is given below.

Hollowaya gen. nov.

Genus type species: *Spilosoma lateritica* HOLLOWAY, 1979

Etymology: The new genus is named after the famous researcher of the Sundaland and New Caledonian moths, Dr. JEREMY HOLLOWAY.

Description: σ forewings white with two medial rows of blackish spots; hindwings white or rosy. Antennae bipectinate. σ genitalia (fig. 1): uncus like a narrow trapezoid with a distinct notch at apex. There is no visible "collar" of an enlargement of the proximal part of the tegumen. Valvae finger-like, with an enlargement at the base. Juxta transversal. Saccus broadly rounded. Aedeagus straight with a dentate field at vesica base. Everted vesica directed upwards.

Genus composition: *H. lateritica* (HOLLOWAY, 1979) **comb. nov.** from New Caledonia and New Hebrides (HOLLOWAY, 1979), originally described in *Spilosoma* CURTIS, 1825, and *H. lifuensis* (ROTHSCHILD, 1910) **comb. nov.** from New Caledonia and Lifu, originally described in *Diacrisia* HÜBNER, [1819].

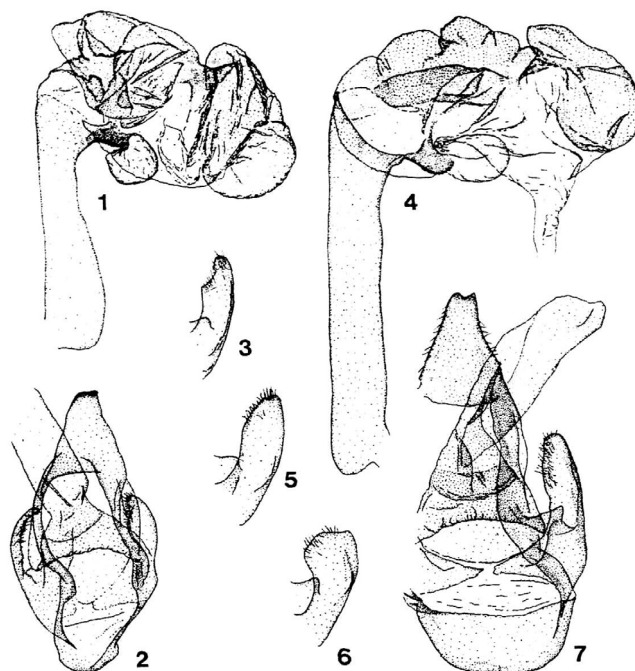


Fig. 1. Aedeagi and σ genitalia of *Hollowaya lifuensis* (ROTHSCHILD, 1910) (1-2) and *H. lateritica* (HOLLOWAY, 1979) (3-7) from New Caledonia, taken from: HOLLOWAY (1979).

Notes: HOLLOWAY (1979) attributed both species of this genus to *Spilosoma* CURTIS, 1825, in error because of the presence of a distinct notch at apex of the uncus in *Hollowaya* gen. nov. species. This character is common with quite a different group of Oriental and Australian genera: *Areas* WALKER, 1855, *Aloa* WALKER, 1855 (s. str.), *Paramsacta* HULSTAERT, 1923, and *Micaloa* DUBATOLOV, 2004 that might show a relationship; nevertheless, all species of the latter genera have quite different valva structures (DUBATOLOV, HAYNES, KISHIDA, 2009; DUBATOLOV, 2004). HOLLOWAY (1979) also compared the two species from New Caledonia with the Australian *Ardices glatignyi* (LE GUILLOU, 1841) and *Spilosoma erythrastis* MEYRICK, 1886 later being transferred into the genus *Spilaethalida* DUBATOLOV, DE VOS et DAAWIA, 2007. Nevertheless, species of *Ardices* WALKER, 1855 and *Spilaethalida* DUBATOLOV et al. have no apical notch on the uncus (DUBATOLOV, 2005; DUBATOLOV, DE VOS & DAAWIA, 2007) and could not be treated as close relatives.

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Address of the author

Dr. VLADIMIR V. DUBATOLOV
Siberian Zoological Museum
Institute of Systematics and Ecology of Animals
Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
Frunze street ,11
630091, Novosibirsk, 91, Russia