

A new species of the genus *Dysspastus* GOZMÁNY, 1964 from the United Arab Emirates

(Lepidoptera, Autostichidae)

by

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Abstract: A new species of the genus *Dysspastus* GOZMÁNY, 1964 is described from the United Arab Emirates. The moths were collected by MR. ROLAND BREITHAUP at light in the Hajar Mountains in the eastern part of the UAE (fig. 1, 2). The specimens are partially deposited in the collection of Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, Germany (holotype and 18 paratypes); Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen (4 paratypes); and in the Zoological Institute Academy of Sciences, St.-Petersburg, Russia (10 paratypes).

Key words: Lepidoptera, Autostichidae, *Dysspastus*, new species, Arab Emirates.

The Autostichidae are middle-sized gelechioids with more or less wide wings of white, pale yellow, grey or brown coloration and with usually recurved labial palpi. Hind wings usually with veins Rs and M1 stalked from end of the cell, sometimes running from one point. Abdominal terga with spiniform setae in band across segment. In ♂ genitalia uncus developed, gnathos as a mesial hook. Moths are wide-spread except South America. The foodplants of many species are unknown, some of them feed on dead, sometimes decaying plant tissue or on lichens. The genus *Dysspastus* Gozmány belongs to the subfamily Symmocinae. It differs from other subfamilies by labial palpi without bundle of long scales on second joint; forewing with vein R5 present and stalked with R4; vein CuP absent (HODGES, 1999). GOZMÁNY (1963, 2008) consider this taxon as separate family.

Hitherto genus *Dysspastus* was represented by 12 species distributed in Southern Europe and Near East (GOZMÁNY, 2008).

Material and methods: Moths were collected by Mr. ROLAND BREITHAUP, German engineer who collects insects in the UAE since end of 2012 for various scientists and institutions.

Specimens were collected at a light trap in location at the Hajar mountains in the eastern part of the UAE, Fujairah Emirate, Wadi Wurrayah, where the wadi leaves the mountains towards the Indian Ocean. The nearest settlement is Fakkan. Biotopes are steep to moderate rocky slopes where vegetation 20.II. to 20.III.2015.

Dysspastus rolandi spec. nov. (fig. 3, 4)

Holotype ♂ (fig. 3): United Arab Emirates; Fujairah Emirate, Wadi Wurrayah, 219 m., 20.II.2015, 25° 23' 50" N / 56° 16' 40" E, gen. prep. № 29 (A. LVOVSKY), leg. R. BREITHAUP. Coll. DEI, Müncheberg.

Paratypes: 5 ♂♂, the same locality 20.II.2015, leg. R. BREITHAUP; 27 ♂♂, the same locality, 20.III.2015, leg. R. BREITHAUP.

Description: Forewing length 5-7 mm, wingspan 11,5-15,5 mm. Antennae without cilia. One side of antenna white, another one pale gray. Labial palpi recurved, covered with white and black scales. Apical joint much shorter than second one. Head white. Thorax and forewing white with numerous black scales. Hindwing pale gray.

♂ genitalia (fig. 4): The end of uncus obtuse; gnathos a large and strong hook. Valva with wide rounded apex. Saccus pointed at apex. Saccus very small. Aedeagus very short, straight, with small bundle of cornuti.

Female is unknown.

Differential diagnosis: New species is similar to *D. jinn* (GOZMÁNY, 1963), differing in larger size (wing expanse more than 11 mm); more shorter aedoeagus (shorter than saccus) and numerous black scales on the white background of forewing.

Distribution: United Arab Emirates; Fujairah Emirate, Wadi Wurrayah.

Etymology: Named after ROLAND BREITHAUP, collector of the specimens.

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Figs. 1, 2: *Dysspastus rolandi* spec. nov., biotopes - United Arab Emirates; Fujairah Emirate, Wadi Wurayah, 219 m., 20.II.2015, 25° 23' 50" N / 56n° 16' 40" E, leg. R. BREITHAUPt.

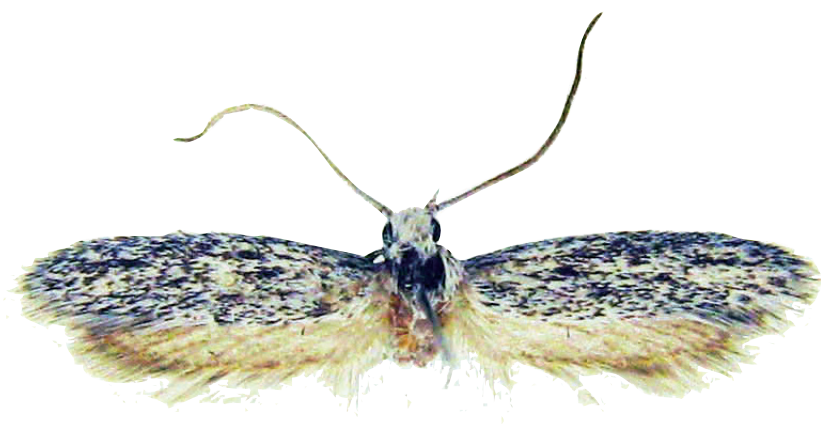


Fig. 3: *Dysspastus rolandi* spec. nov., moth holotype. United Arab Emirates; Fujairah Emirate, Wadi Wurrayah, 219 m., 20.II.2015, 25° 23' 50" N / 56° 16' 40" E, leg. R. BREITHAUPT.

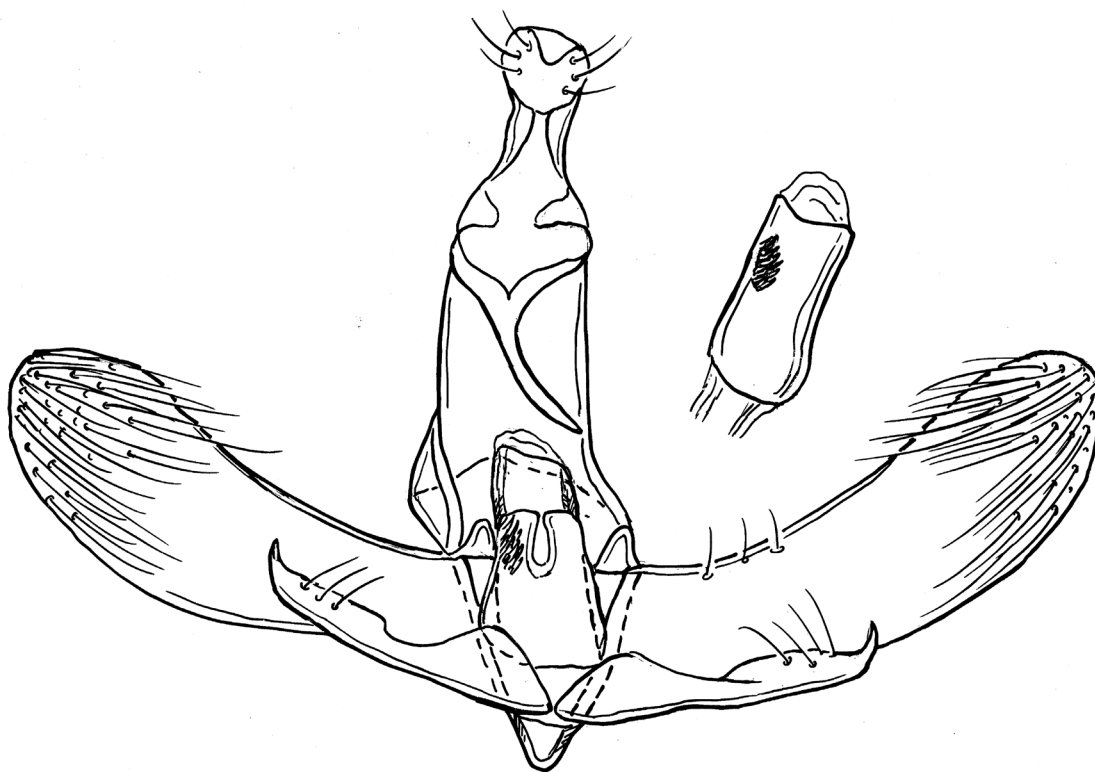


Fig. 4: *Dysspastus rolandi* spec. nov., genitalia holotype. United Arab Emirates; Fujairah Emirate, Wadi Wurrayah, 219 m., 20.II.2015, 25° 23' 50" N / 56° 16' 40" E, leg. R. BREITHAUPT.

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