

## A new *Agdistis* from St. Helena Island (Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae)

With 7 figures

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### Summary

*Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov. is described as new species. Imago and genitalia are illustrated.

### Key words

St. Helena, fauna, Pterophoridae, *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.

### Zusammenfassung

*Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov. wird als neue Art beschrieben, Imago und Genitale werden abgebildet.

### Introduction

St. Helena is a small 122 square kilometres island in the South Atlantic. First studies of the Lepidoptera fauna were conducted in the second half of the 19th Century. At the end of the 20th Century three species of Pterophoridae had been recorded: *Stenodacma wahlbergi* (ZELLER, 1852), *Hellinsia subnotata* (WALKER, 1875) and *Agdistis sanctae-helenae* WOLLASTON, 1879 (BIGOT, 1975; KARISCH, 2003; ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE, 2000). In 2011 a second *Agdistis* species was discovered by the second author (AMB) in southwest St. Helena and described under the name *Agdistis marionae* ARENBERGER, BEARD, HASENFUSS & KARISCH, 2012.

### Material and Methods

Among the specimens of *Agdistis marionae* sent to the third author (TK) in 2011, there was a specimen from the north of the island (Cambrian House east of Jamestown). Later, DAVID PRYCE (St. Helena National Trust) has collected further material of *Agdistis* from the northern part of the island using a malaise-trap at Rupert's Valley. The specimens were placed in a tube with ethanol and sent to the third author (TK), who removed seven specimens, dried and spread them. Three genitalia dissections were made following ROBINSON (1976).

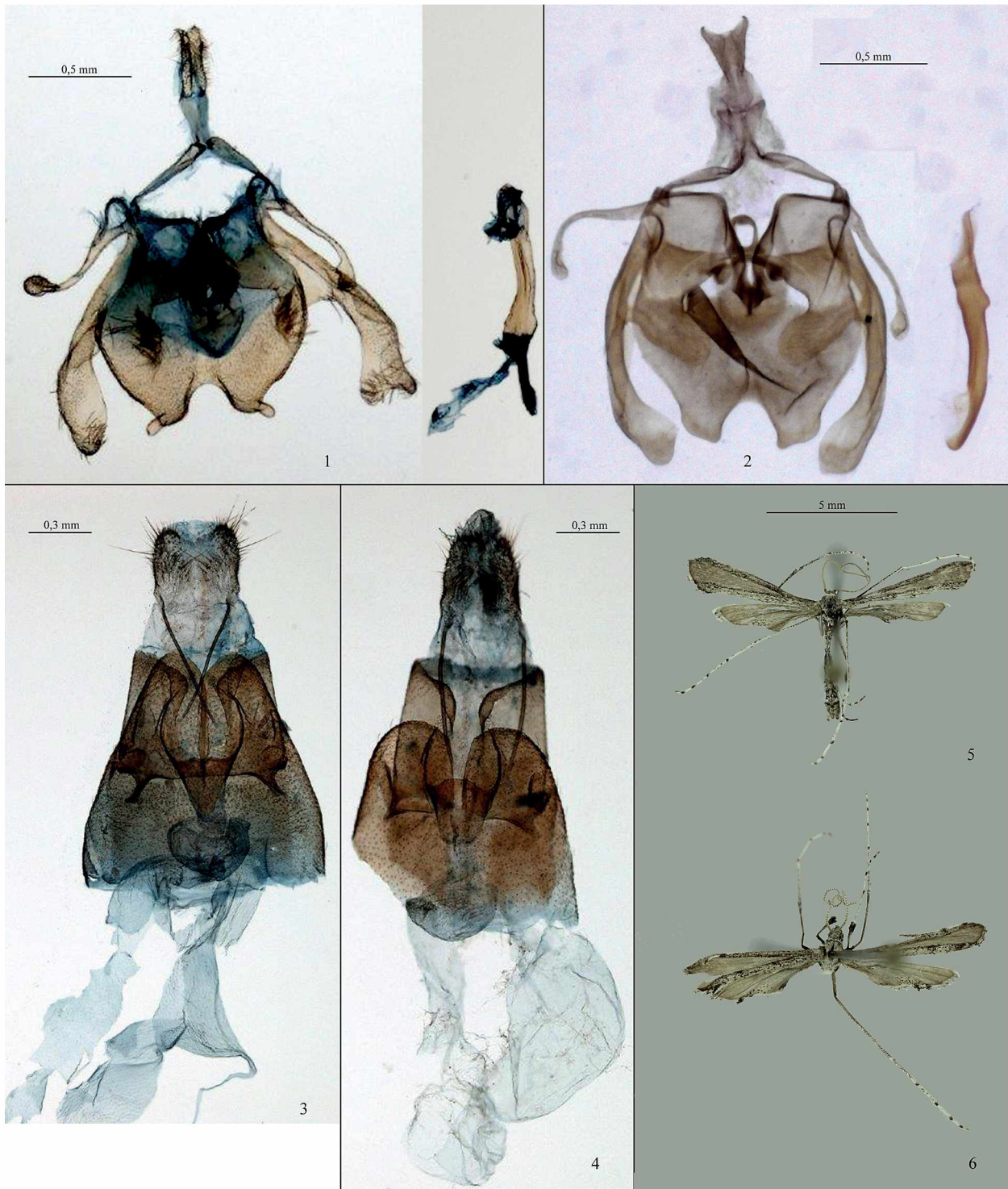


Fig. 1: *Agdistis marionae* ARENBERGER, BEARD, HASENFUSS & KARISCH, 2012; male genitalia.

Fig. 2: *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.: male genitalia.

Fig. 3: *Agdistis marionae* ARENBERGER, BEARD, HASENFUSS & KARISCH, 2012: female genitalia.

Fig. 4: *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.: female genitalia.

Fig. 5: *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.: imago, holotype, male.

Fig. 6: *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.: imago, paratype, male.

Photographs 1, 3, 4 by E. ARENBERGER, 2, 5, 6 by T. KARISCH.



## Results

The first author (EA) detected some differences in genitalia between the specimen from Jamestown and the series from the South West of the island. That's why the specimen was taken out of the type series of *A. marionae* and remained unidentified until the vast collection of D. PRYCE was received. This collection contains males only, whereas the specimen from Jamestown is a female. Because the study sites are very close (about 1,5 km distance) in neighbouring valleys we suppose that all specimens belong to only one species.

Comparison of the structure of the male and female genitalia shows clearly that the *Agdistis* from the north of St. Helena belong to a second, hitherto unknown species. It is described below.

## Abbreviations

coll.	Collection
Fig.	Figure
GU	genitalia preparation
BMNH	The Natural History Museum London
MNVD	Museum für Naturkunde und Vorgeschichte Dessau
NHMW	Naturhistorisches Museum Wien

## *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.

**Holotype**, ♂: “St. Helena, Rupert's Valley, WGS 84 15°55.460'S, 5°42.650'W, 36 MASL, 02-23/V/2014, Malaise trap, coll. David Pryce”. Coll. MNVD.

**Paratypes**: 6 ♂♂ (2 ♂♂ GU 3320, 3321 KARISCH) with the same data as holotype, coll. MNVD, NHMW, BMNH; 1 ♀ (GU 6450, ARENBERGER) St. Helena, Upper Jamestown, Cambrian House, 05.II.2011, leg. A. M. BEARD, coll. NHMW.

**Etymology**: Named from the locality at Cambrian House, Jamestown, St. Helena.

**Diagnosis** (Figs 5, 6): Wingspan: 11.5–13 mm. Head, thorax and abdomen grey-brown; palpi at base dark brown, tips grey; antenna brown, whitish spotted. Forewing grey-brown, covered with numerous brown scales. Costal margin with two dots, lower fold margin with two large, brown patches which extend to the fringes. Hindwing monochrome grey-brown, anal margin with scattered dark brown scales. Hind legs grey, tarsi white, terminally brown.

**Genitalia** ♂ (Fig. 2): uncus similar to that of *A. marionae*, but caudal margin concave incised, lateral tips divergent. Valvae symmetrical, basal parts dumpy, in distal half slender, strip-shaped; outer parts of valva bent, bar-shaped, broadened at the end, but not crenate as in



Fig. 7: Cambrian House and its surroundings, habitat of *Agdistis cambriana* spec. nov.  
Photograph by E. THORPE.

*A. marionae* (Fig. 1); costal arms slender, strongly curved distally. Aedeagus rather slender, slightly arcuate. 8<sup>th</sup> sternite plate-shaped, caudal margin with two broad lobes.

Genitalia ♀ (Fig. 4): antrum similar to that of *A. marionae* (Fig. 3), but considerably shorter and lateral setae of antrum are less bent.

**Biological notes:** The caterpillar of *A. cambriana* spec. nov. is unknown. The imago has been caught in February and May. The habitat is an area with sparse scrub vegetation and some gardens near the north coast of the island (Fig. 7).

**Differential diagnosis:** Imago of *A. cambriana* spec. nov. with two costal dots, lacking in *A. marionae*. In *A. marionae* only basal part of forewing darkened, in *A. cambriana* spec. nov. the whole forewing uniform grey-brown, scattered with brown scales. In ♂-genitalia, distal end of uncus in *A. cambriana* spec. nov. broad with two divergent tips, in *A. marionae* tips strongly approximated. Tip of right valva rounded, in *A. marionae* crenate. Caudal margin of 8<sup>th</sup> sternite bilobed in both species, but in *A. marionae* tips are short, outwardly bent, and in *A. cambriana* spec. nov. they form broad plates. Antrum in *A. marionae* considerably longer and more slender than in *A. cambriana* spec. nov.

**Distribution:** Likely endemic to St. Helena.

**Remarks:** In ARENBERGER et al. (2012), the illustration of the female genitalia, given as *A. marionae* (Fig. 3) is incorrect: it is in fact *A. cambriana* spec. nov. (slide no. 6450, ARENBERGER) (Fig. 4).

## Acknowledgement

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