

Short Communication

First record of *Nemophora lapikella* Kozlov (Adelidae) from Japan

During the past years, considerable progress was achieved in investigation of the moth family Adelidae in Japan, mainly due to the intensive work by Hirowatari (1995, 1998, 2000). To date, 22 species of the genus *Nemophora* Hoffmannsegg have been recorded from Japan (Hirowatari, 1998); the latest nomenclatural changes and additions to the taxonomic treatment of Adelidae in the famous book 'Moths of Japan' (Moriuti 1982) were recently summarized by Sugi (2000).

Although the faunistic lists of Adelidae from the Russian Far East (Kozlov 1997b) and Japan (Hirowatari 1998) do not show complete correspondence, the number of common species is rather high. Therefore absence of *N. lapikella* Kozlov, 1997, in Japan was rather confusing, because this species is distributed from the Russian Primorye to Taiwan, and is abundant in all parts of the distribution range (Kozlov 1997a).

Recent investigation of the materials kept in Taiwan Forest Research Institute (Taipei) revealed that *N. lapikella* is indeed present in Japan, at least in Oita Prefecture of Kyushu: two specimens (male and female) labelled 'Japan: Kyushu, Kurodake, 8.7.1937, S. Issiki' with certainty belong to this species. I suspect that many more specimens of *N. lapikella* can be discovered by careful examination of specimens determined as *N. staudingerella* (Christoph, 1881). Although it is possible to distinguish well-preserved specimens of *N. lapikella* from other species by external characters (such as the abrupt change of male antennal color from cupreous brown to light silver-white at the level of forewing fascia), reliable identification is only possible on the basis of male genitalia (figured by Kozlov 1997a, b). In particular, *N. lapikella* differs from *N. staudingerella* by longer vinculum (2.6–2.8 × length of valva) and smooth right wall of aedeagus (spinose in *N. staudingerella*).

One more species of the same species-group, *N. chalybeella* (Bremer, 1884), so far reported from the Russian Far East and Korea (Kozlov, 1997b), can also be discovered from Japan. In this species the left carinae on male aedeagus is corkscrew-shaped apically, whereas in both *N. staudingerella* and *N. lapikella* carinae on the ventral wall of aedeagus are symmetrical.

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