

Zekelita gaedei sp.n., a new Hypeninae from Kenya (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

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Abstract

Zekelita gaedei sp.n. from Kenya is described as new. The female adult and the female genitalia are illustrated.

Zusammenfassung

Zekelita gaedei sp.n. aus Tanzania wird erstmals beschrieben. Das Weibchen wird mit seinen Genitalarmaturen abgebildet.

Key words: Ethiopian Region, Hypeninae, Kenya, new species, *Zekelita*.

Introduction

In the collections of the BMNH (= The Natural History Museum, London) a female of a new species of the genus *Zekelita* WALKER, 1863 could be located. The specimen has been found in the main Hypeninae collection under the nomen nudum „*Rhynchina tavetensis* GAEDE“. This species was prepared by Gaede for description in the Hypeninae part of SEITZ' „Die Groß-Schmetterlinge der Erde“ which never had been published. The new species is described and illustrated.

Zekelita gaedei sp.n. (Figs. 1-4)

Type material:

Holotype, ♀ (Fig. 1): „[Kenya] B.E.Africa. Taveta. 27.XII.1905 K.St.A. Rogers. 1906-91. \ *Rhynchina tavetensis* type det. M.Gaede \ Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16487 ♀“ (BMNH).

Derivatio nominis: The new species is dedicated to the famous entomologist M. Gaede, who contributed so much to the knowledge of the African noctuid fauna.



Fig. 1: *Zekelita gaedei* sp.n., ♀-holotype (BMNH).

Description:

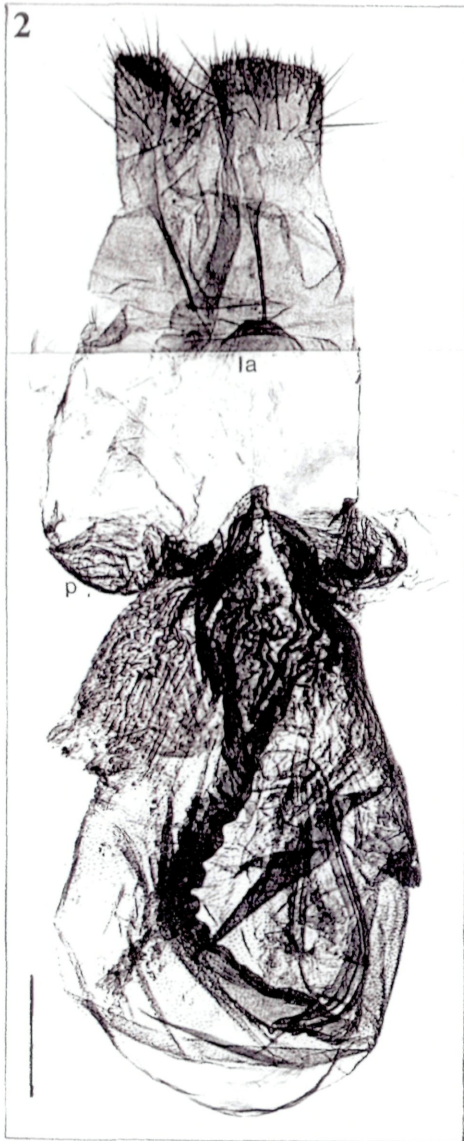
Head: Whitish and pale greyish, speckled with reddish brown scales. Antennae shortly ciliate, beige brown. Labial palps very long, porrect. Second joint very long in relation to the third joint.

Thorax and abdomen: Very pale, whitish or greyish, with reddish brown and brown scales. Legs pale beige or greyish.

Wings: Wingspan = 24 mm; length of forewing : width of forewing = 1.63. Forewings rounded with beige ground colour and brown, reddish brown and whitish grey markings. Most prominent feature is a pale brown postmedial band which is bordered by a pale whitish line and accompanied by big reddish brown patches near the posterior margin. The postmedial band is very fine pointed at the end of the discal cell. The reniform spot is insignificant, marked by a suffuse whitish are. The orbicular spot is big and brown. The tornus wears a dark tooth-like scale tuft („Z“ in LÖDL & MAYERL 1998). The forewing base is greyish beige speckled with black scales. The apex is pale whitish. The fringe is white bordered by a greyish brown margin. The hindwings are beige brown.

♀-genitalia (Figs. 2-4): The female genitalia can be recognized easily by the significant features of the sterigma area and a waved dorsal rib of the bursa. The apophyses anteriores are extremely short in relation to the apophyses posteriores. The 7th sternite exhibits two rounded pockets at both sides of the ostium (p in fig. 2). The ostium wears a pair of large, serrated lobes which originate in an area of folded skin (Fig. 3). The lamella antevaginalis (la in fig. 2) consists of an elongated sclerotized plate with a short central lobe at the distal end. The bursa is very broad and stout and covered with small, fine spines. The ventral side of the bursa bears at the caudal part a big, skinny cervix. The dorsal surface of the bursa exhibits a waved and roughly serrated rib (Fig. 4). The ductus seminalis originates at its middle where the rib is kneed.

The new species would meet the features of two subgenera: *Tinctalita* LÖDL & MAYERL, 1998 and *Ravalita* LÖDL & MAYERL, 1997 (sterigma-pockets !). The female genitalia is very stout and could also be a typical *Zekelita* WALKER, 1863 genitalia. The exact systematic position will be obvious when the male is discovered.



Figs. 2-4 *Zekelita gaedei* sp.n., ♀-holotype, Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16487:

Fig. 2: Genitalia, total; la = lamella antevaginalis, p = pockets of 7th sternite. Scale = 0.5 mm.- **Fig. 3:** Sterigma with pair of serrated lobes. Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Fig. 4:** Waved dorsal rib of corpus bursae (rib). Scale = 0.1 mm.

Literature

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