

The genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 from South Africa (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Herminiinae)

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Abstract

The monotypic genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 is discussed. The synonymy of the type-species *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854 with *Hypena megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902 is verified. The lectotype of the latter is designated. *C. reniferalis* is redescribed and both sexes are illustrated.

Zusammenfassung

Das monotypische Genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 wird diskutiert. Die Synonymie der Typusart *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854 mit *Hypena megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902 wird bestätigt. Der Lectotypus von letzterer wird designiert. *C. reniferalis* wird wiederbeschrieben und in beiden Geschlechtern abgebildet.

Key words: *Ceraptila*, Ethiopian region, Herminiinae, *Idia*, Noctuidae, South Africa.

Introduction

The monotypic genus *Ceraptila* was created by GUENÉE in BOISDUVAL & GUENÉE, 1854. Type species is *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854 which was described on the basis of two males from South Africa. The genus later was wrongly synonymized with *Rhynchina* GUENÉE, 1854 (POOLE, 1989), but its status was implicitly revised by LÖDL, 1994: 578. In this paper the synonymy of [*Hypena*] *megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902 was published provisionally. Aim of the present paper is to verify the synonymy and to illustrate the type specimens of the mentioned taxa as well as their genitalia structure. The genus is clearly recognized as a member of the subfamily Herminiinae and placed in the genus-group of *Idia* HÜBNER, [1813].

Ceraptila reniferalis GUENÉE, 1854 (Figs. 1-11)

Ceraptila reniferalis, GUENÉE in BOISDUVAL & GUENÉE, 1854: 24.
Hypena megaproctis HAMPSON, 1902: 430.



1

Reniferalis ♂
C. Cap.

14

Noctuidae ♂
Brit. Mus. slide
No. 16618

Ex Musaeo
Academiae

Type



2

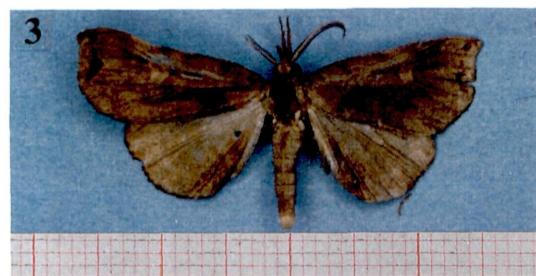
Hypena
megaproctis,
type ♀. HAMPSON

Durban
12.01
37 Leigh

Noctuidae
Brit. Mus. slide
No. 16617

Type

Natal,
1902-74



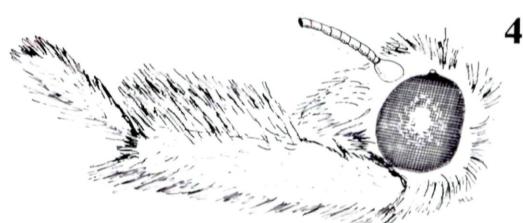
Ceraptila
reniferalis JN.
vol. 8, 1854
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MUSEUM PARIS
CAP DE BONNE
ESPÉRANCE
VERREAUX 1837

Ceraptila
reniferalis ♂



TYPE



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Figs. 1-4 *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854, adults and head:

Fig. 1: *Ceraptila reniferalis* paralectotype ♂, BMNH.- **Fig. 2:** [*Hypena*] *megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902, lectotype ♀, BMNH.- **Fig. 3:** *Ceraptila reniferalis*, lectotype ♂, MNHN (Paris).- **Fig. 4:** [*H.*] *megaproctis*, lectotype ♀, head, lateral view.

Type material:

Ceraptila reniferalis: Lectotype, ♂, 946 (?)37, Museum Paris, Cap de Bonne-Esperance, Verreaux 1837 (MNHN) (Designated by VIETTE (1951: 162) (Fig. 3).- Paralectotype, ♂, 14, Reniferalis Gn. C. Cap., Ex Musaeo Ach. Guenée, Ex Oberthür Coll. Brit.Mus. 1927-3., Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16618 ♂ (BMNH) (Fig. 1).

Hypena megaproctis: Lectotype, ♀, Natal 1902-74, Durban XII(?) 1901, G.J. Leigh, Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16617 (BMNH) (Fig. 2) (This is one of two syntypes and not the holotype as erroneously stated in POOLE (1989) and LÖDL (1994). It is designated here according to the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) as it is necessary to stabilize the nomenclature within the Noctuids and to enable the exact verification of the synonymy).- Paralectotype, ♂, Natal 1901.24.6, Bred 20.VIII.1901, Durban, G.J.Leigh (BMNH).

Description:

Head (Fig. 4): Strong and broad, dark reddish brown with prominent frontal crest. Labial palpi very long, straight, densely covered with long scales (Fig. 4). Especially the second joint very long, nearly 3 mm. Diameter of eye about 1 mm. Antennae of the male pectinate, of the female covered with fine ciliae.

Thorax and abdomen (Fig. 9): Body dark purplish brown, stout and strong, relatively short. Abdomen of the female with long greyish ochreous anal tuft. Tarsi banded with ochreous. A prespiracular hood is present. 8th sternite of the male with a medial groove (Fig. 9). The 7th sternite of the female forms a big groove caudally and is covered by voluminous portions of hair-like scales.

Wings: Wingspan = 29-36 mm. Forewing dark purplish brown with striking reniform spot which is marked by an ochreous lunule. Subterminal line ochreous and notched, remarkably marked by prominent, arrow-shaped black patches in the apical area. Antemedial line blackish at the costa with a huge black claviform patch at the posterior margin. Hindwing paler than the forewing, fuscous brown with waved ochreous subterminal line which is rather inconspicuous.

Male genitalia (Figs. 5-8): Male genitalia with big club-shaped uncus with tiny terminal hook (Fig. 8). Valves relatively small, narrower at the distal end. Ventral margin concave, dorsal margin curved and enlarged (Fig. 6). In the middle of the valve two distinct folds with bristles are present (Fig. 6). Margins of the valves with several strong bristles. Sacculus not split into a distinct process but marked with a fold. The vinculum is broad and rounded. The aedeagus is short, cone-shaped with a narrow coecum. The vesica is covered with several areas of small spines and the blunt, distal end of the aedeagus wears several rows of sclerotized spines (Fig. 7). A distinct and big cornutus is not found.

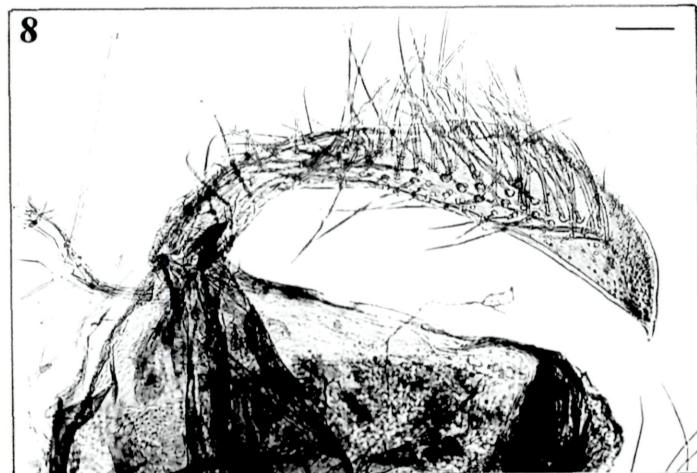
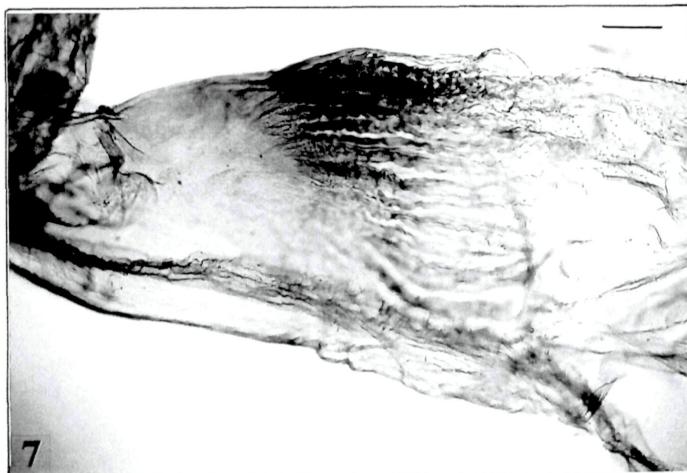
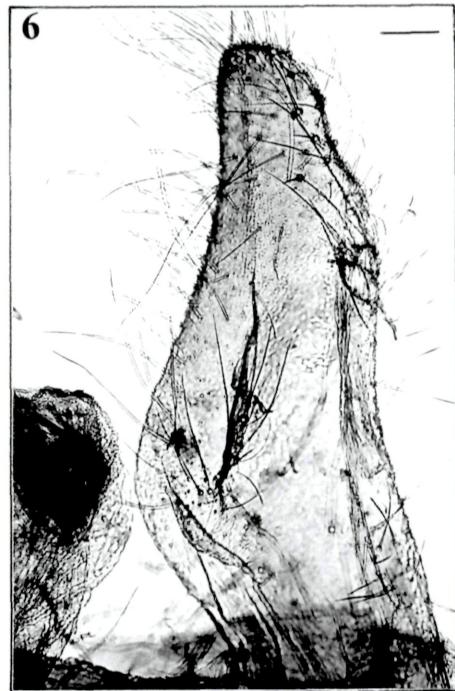
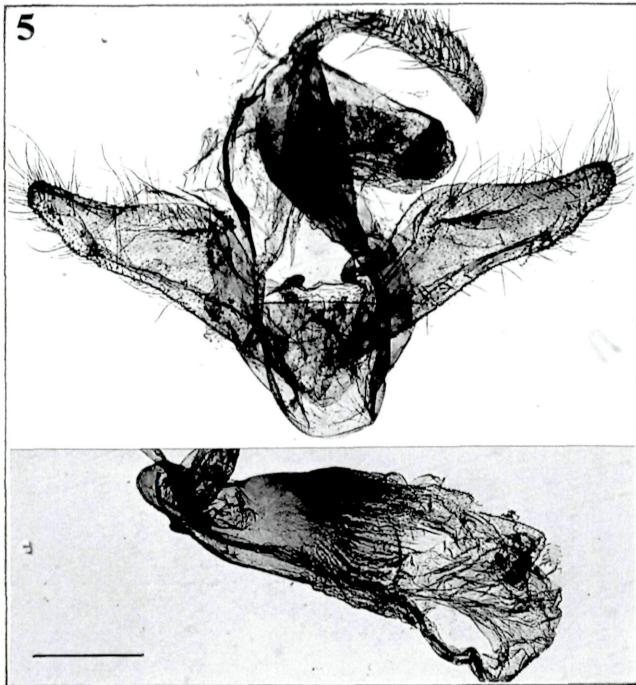
Female genitalia (Figs. 10-11): Female genitalia stout with big and broad papillae anales. The apophyses are long. The most striking feature of the species is a remarkable, skinny lobe situated on the back of the papillae, it is a sort of crest, densely covered with long bristles (Fig. 11). Together with the dense bundle of hairs on the ventral part of the abdomen it forms a huge tuft of hairs. This is quite uncommon for noctuid females. The total length of the genitalia is 5.8 mm. The ostium is simple, a complex sterigma is missing. The apophyses anteriores run to nearly 1/4 of the total length. The ductus bursae is relatively broad and exhibits a tight lacing near the bursa. This area is covered with longitudinal folds and grooves and covered with small spines. The bursa is long, oval and skinny. The ductus seminalis runs into the bursa directly on its shoulder.

Discussion:

The knowledge of the African Herminiinae is extraordinarily poor. The author has contributed to the knowledge by several redescriptions and a first attempt to define a group of herminiine moths near the genus *Idia* (LÖDL 1996a, b, c, 1997, 1999). Genera which could have a closer relationship with *Ceraptila* could be *Idia*, *Ctenypena* A.E. PROUT, 1927, *Naarda* WALKER, 1866 and *Gynaephila* STAUDINGER, 1892. *Ceraptila* still is a monotypic genus. Therefore it is very difficult to evaluate the features on the generic level. The most important step of this investigation is the clarification of the herminiine character of this taxon and its relationships to the *Idia*-group.

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Figs. 5-8 *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854, paralectotype ♂-genital, Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16618:

Fig. 5: Genital, total. Scale = 0.5 mm.- **Fig. 6:** Right valve. Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Fig. 7:** Aedeagus (pt.). Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Fig. 8:** Uncus. Scale = 0.1 mm.

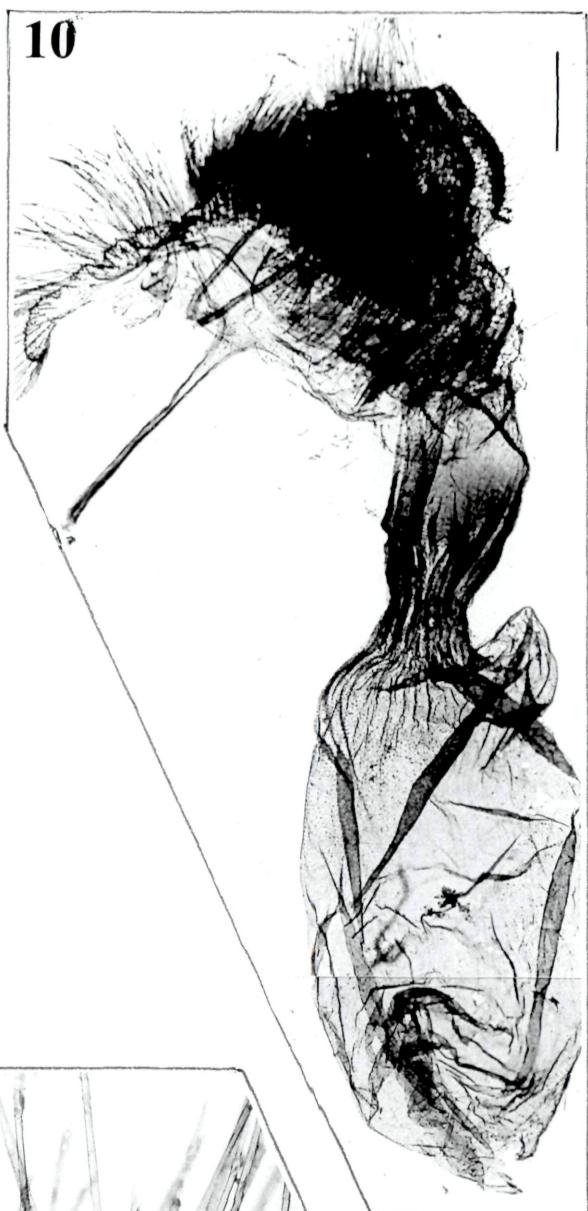
Figs. 9-11 *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854 (next page / nächste Seite):

Fig. 9: *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854, paralectotype ♂-genital, Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16618, 8th sternite. Scale = 0.5 mm.- **Fig. 10:** [*Hypena*] *megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902, lectotype ♀, Noctuidae Brit. Mus. slide No. 16617, genital, total. Scale = 0.5 mm.- **Fig. 11:** dto.- Dorsal crest of papillae anales. Scale = 0.1 mm.

9



10



11



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