

***Ceraptila astridis* sp.n. from Tanzania, the second known species of the genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Herminiinae)**

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Abstract

The monotypic genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 now contains two species: the type species *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854 (= *Hypena megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902) and *Ceraptila astridis* sp.n.. The new species was found in Tanzania. It is described and illustrated.

Zusammenfassung

Das monotypische Genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 enthält nunmehr zwei Arten: Die Typusart *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854 (= *Hypena megaproctis* HAMPSON, 1902) und *Ceraptila astridis* sp.n.. Die neue Art stammt aus Tanzania. Sie wird beschrieben und abgebildet.

Key words: *Ceraptila*, Ethiopian region, Herminiinae, new species, Noctuidae, Tanzania.

Introduction

The redescription of the genus *Ceraptila* GUENÉE, 1854 and the clarification of the synonymy was provided by LÖDL (1994: 578, 2001: 95).

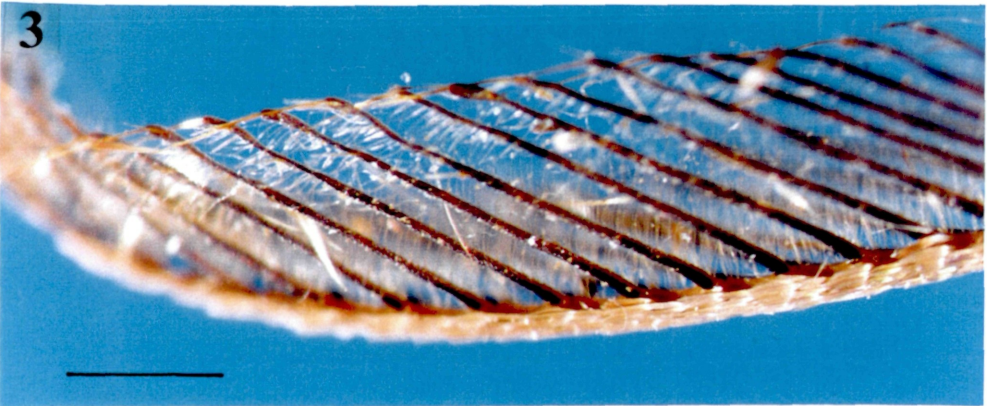
To our present knowledge the Herminiinae genus *Ceraptila* was containing only a single species. Recently a new species was discovered under unidentified material of the NHMW (Museum of Natural History, Vienna), collected by Zerny in the former Tanganyika Territory (Tanzania). Aim of this paper is the description of the new species.

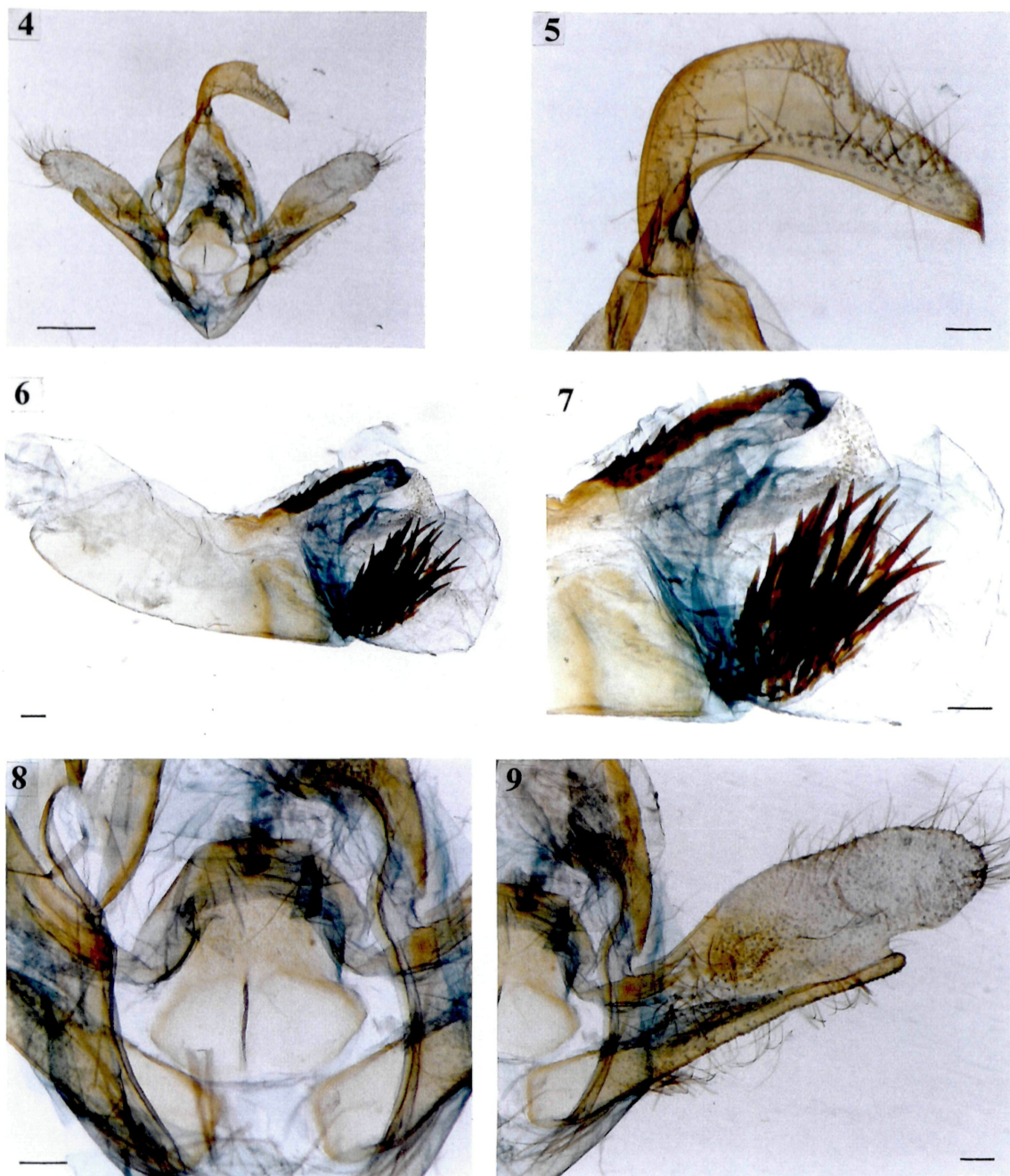
***Ceraptila astridis* sp.n.**

(Figs. 1-9)

Type material:

Holotype, ♂, "[Tanzania] Tanganyika-Terr. Matengo-Hochland wsw. v. Songea, 11.-20.I.'36. Zerny \ Lupembe-Bg. 1800-2000 m \ NHMW gen. praep. M. Lödl no. 726" (NHMW, Museum of Natural History, Vienna) (Fig. 1).





Figs. 4-9 *Ceraptila astridis* sp.n., holotype, ♂-genital (NHMW gen. praep. M. Lödl no. 726):

Figs. 4: Genital, total. Scale = 0.5 mm.- **Figs. 5:** Uncus. Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Figs. 6:** Aedeagus, total. Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Figs. 7:** Aedeagus, distal part with vesica and cornuti. Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Figs. 8:** Juxta and anellus area. Scale = 0.1 mm.- **Figs. 9:** Right valve. Scale = 0.1 mm.

Figs. 1-3 *Ceraptila astridis* sp.n., holotype ♂ (previous page / vorige Seite):

Figs. 1: Holotype ♂, adult.- **Figs. 2:** Lateral view of head. Scale = 0.5 mm.- **Figs. 3:** Bipectinate antenna. Scale = 0.5 mm.

Description:

Head (Fig. 2-3): Strong and broad, dark reddish brown with prominent frontal crest. Labial palpi long, straight, densely covered with long scales (Fig. 2). Labial palpi dark reddish brown, speckled with white scales. The tip of the third joint beige. Total length of the labial palpi about 4 mm. Diameter of eye more than 1 mm. Antennae of the male strongly bipectinate (Fig. 3).

Thorax and abdomen: Body dark chocolate brown, stout and strong, relatively short. Abdomen of the male with greyish beige anal tip. Ground colour of the abdomen greyish beige, speckled with brown scales. First tergites with a black tuft.

Wings: Wingspan = 40 mm. Forewing dark brown with black markings in the middle of the wing and a pike-like marking in the centre. Outer margin with a protrusion in the middle. Subterminal line ochreous and dark brown, not as prominent as in *Ceraptila reniferalis* GUENÉE, 1854. Basal band marked by a black patch. Antemedial band black in the costal area, reddish brown and ochreous in the area of the posterior margin. Reniform spot not as big as in *C. reniferalis*. Hindwing pale greyish-beige, suffused with brown scales. The posterior margin marked with two broad, blackish bands.

Male genital (Figs. 4-9): Male genital with a big helmet-shaped uncus with tiny terminal hook (Fig. 5). *C. reniferalis* exhibits a club-shaped uncus. Similar shape of valves as in *C. reniferalis*, sacculus slightly more prominent (Fig. 9). In the middle of the valve an area with distinct bristles is present (Fig. 9). Margins of the valves with several strong bristles. The vinculum is slightly narrower than in *C. reniferalis*. The juxta is deltoid-shaped, with a longitudinal fold in the middle (Fig. 8). The aedeagus is short, typically herminiine, with a blunt, rounded coecum (Fig. 6). The dorso-distal part of the aedeagus wears a heavily sclerotized plate with several strong teeth (Fig. 7). The vesica is covered with several areas of small spines and exhibits a distinct and big bundle of cornuti. The length of the cornuti is about one-sixth of the length of the aedeagus

Discussion:

As pointed out in LÖDL (2001) the knowledge of the African Herminiinae is exceptionally poor. The description of this new species is a very interesting contribution to this group of Noctuidae. The genus *Ceraptila* now is recognized to be not monotypic and the new species is discovered from a range far north from the type-species, *C. reniferalis* which is - up to our present knowledge - confined to South Africa. We still are convinced that *Ceraptila* clearly stands within a line of genera like *Idia* HÜBNER, [1813], *Ctenypena* A.E. PROUT, 1927, *Naarda* WALKER, 1866 and *Gynaephila* STAUDINGER, 1892.

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