

REICHENBACHIA

Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden

Band 25

Ausgegeben: 30. Oktober 1987

Nr. 17

Studies on some of the typical specimens of Indian Lymantriidae described by the late Mr. F. WALKER in British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London (Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuoidea)

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WALKER (1855, 1855a, 1855b, 1856, 1862, 1865) described several new species of Indian Lymantriidae based on the material lying in British Museum (Natural History), London (BMNH). Almost everywhere he has mentioned in the text that the specimens were either purchased from or presented by so and so from so and so locality. While examining the type material in BMNH, the present author found that none of the material examined by WALKER bears the name of either the person who presented them or who sold them to BMNH. In most of the cases specimens only bears the registration numbers of BMNH or registration number and locality label both. It is surprising that what are written on the label with the specimen are not mentioned in the articles. Since the labels (mostly circular) are written with black ink, most of them are diminishing gradually. Some of them are so fade that one finds difficulty in reading the details of the labels. If a taxonomist want to compare the data of the specimens with that of what are written in the articles, he has to go through the big registration registers lying in BMNH and to note down details of the registration number with the specimen. Without seeing that register it is rather impossible for any one to ascertain whether the material belong to a particular series studied by WALKER or not and moreover that register is not accessible to every one sitting away from BMNH. Keeping into consideration the above fact, it was felt necessary to give an account of the labels with the typical specimens described by WALKER. Sometimes he has described new species based on a single specimens whereas sometimes on the basis of more than one specimen. In old days the concept of holotype and paratype was not there and all the new material examined by the original author were treated as syntypic material. But now the concept of syntype is not acceptable according to recent International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

Therefore wherever the description of new species were based on a single specimen they are treated as holotype but if the descriptions were based on more than one specimen, one (probably male) is designated as lectotype and the remaining as paralectotypes. Designations of lectotypes and paralectotypes have already been done and published by the present author under various publications. In this paper details of only those typical specimens studied by WALKER are given where he has described new species based on a single specimen. This will certainly benefit those who are sitting far off places from BMNH where most of the WALKER's material is lying.

1. *Casama vilis* (WALKER, 1865)

Euproctis vilis WALKER, 1865

Casama indeterminata WALKER, 1865

This species was originally described by WALKER (1865) under genus *Euproctis* Hübner on the basis of a single male specimen from South India. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of the wings 14 lines. a.

South India. Presented by M. J. Walhouse Esq." The above single specimen is present in BMNH under reg. no. 61/20 and hereby treated as holotype.

Casama indeterminata WALKER a synonym of *C. vilis* (WALKER) was described on the basis of a single male specimen from South India. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of the wings 16 lines. a. South Hindustan. Presented by M. J. Walhouse Esq." The above single specimen is present in BMNH with reg. no. 61/20 but in contrast with the original description the specimen is female and not male. WALKER (1865) has wrongly mentioned that the specimen studied by him was a male. In the description the character of antennae (slightly pectinated) shows that the specimen was female. The above specimen is hereby treated as holotype of *Casama indeterminata* WALKER.

Material examined ♂, "61/20, South India" (gray, circular, handwritten), "HOLO-TYPE" (red, circular, printed), "EUPROCTIS VILIS" (white, rectangular, printed), "Casama vilis WALK., Ser. 49 dr. 287" (white, rectangular, typed), "Lymantriidae genitalia slide no. 1041 ♂" (blue, rectangular, partly printed and partly handwritten) (Holotype); ♀, "HOLO-TYPE" (red, circular, printed), "61/20, South India" (gray, circular, handwritten), "CASAMA INDETERMINATA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

2. *Dasychira complicata* WALKER, 1865

Trisula pustulifera WALKER, 1865

The original description was based on two male specimens from India. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 12 lines; of the wings 32 lines. a, b. Hindostan. Presented by Sir J. Hearsey" In BMNH, there is a male specimen with reg. no. 61/13 from India which appears to be of original syntypic series and hereby designated as lectotype. The specimen bears a label of *Mardara complicata* WALKER also but WALKER never described any such species.

Original description for *Trisula pustulifera* WALKER, a synonym of *Dasychira complicata* WALKER was based on a single male specimen from North Hindostan. Details of the material as mentioned by original author "Length of the body 10 lines; of the wings 28 lines. a. North Hindostan. From Mr. Steven's collection. The above specimen is present in BMNH and hereby treated as holotype of *Trisula pustulifera* WALKER.

Material examined ♂, "61/83, India" (white, rectangular, handwritten), "DASYCHIRA COMPLICATA" (white, rectangular, printed), "Mardara complicata Walker" (white, rectangular, handwritten) (Lectotype designated); ♂, "N. India, 51/11" (gray, circular, handwritten), "TRISULA PUSTULIFERA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype of *Trisula pustulifera* WALKER) (BMNH).

3. *Dasychira locuples* (WALKER, 1855)

Cifuna locuples WALKER, 1855

This species was originally described by WALKER (1855) based on a single male specimen from Sylhet under genus *Cifuna* WALKER. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 7 lines; of the wings 22 lines. a. Sylhet. Presented by E. Doubleday Esq." The above specimen is present in BMNH under reg. no. 43/58 but that is a female and not male as mentioned by the original author. From detailed description it is very much clear that the specimen examined by WALKER was a female and not the male. The above specimen is treated as holotype.

Material examined ♀, "43/58" otherside of the label "Silhet" (white, circular, handwritten), "1. CIFUNA LOCUPLES" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

4. *Dasychira nigritula* WALKER, 1865

This species was originally described on the basis of a single male specimen from North

Hindustan. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 9 lines; of the wings 10 lines. a. North Hindustan. From Captain Reid's collection" The above specimen is available in BMNH under reg. no. 55/76 and is hereby treated as holotype. The male genitalia of specimen is dissected out and kept on slide no. 49/728.

Material examined ♂, "55/76, N. India" (gray, circular, handwritten), "♂ gen. slide no. 49/728" (green, square, printed partly), "DASYCHIRA NIGRITULA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

5. **Euproctis semisignata** (WALKER, 1865)

Cispia semisignata WALKER, 1865

WALKER (1865) described this species based on a single male specimen from South Hindustan presented by M. J. Walhouse under genus *Cispia* WALKER. The above specimen is present in BMNH under reg. no. 61/20 and hereby treated as holotype.

Material examined ♂, "S. India, 61/20" (blue, circular, handwritten), "CISPIA SEMISIGNATA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

6. **Himala argentea** (WALKER, 1855)

Redoa argentea WALKER, 1855

This species was originally described on a single male specimen from Assam under genus *Redoa* WALKER. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 7 lines; of the wings 16 lines. a. Assam. From Mr. Warwick's collection" The above specimen is present in BMNH with reg. no. 48/73 and hereby treated as holotype.

Material examined ♂, "48/73, India" (gray, circular, handwritten), "3. REDOA ARGENTEA" (white, rectangular, printed), "Himala Moore, argentea Walker" (white, rectangular, handwritten) (Holotype) (BMNH).

7 **Kanchia subvitrea** (WALKER, 1865)

Leucoma subvitrea WALKER, 1865

Originally this species was described under genus *Leucoma* HÜBNER based on a single male specimen from Hindostan. Details of the material as given by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of the wings 18 lines. a. Hindostan. Presented by Sir J. Hearsey" In BMNH there is a female specimen with reg. no. 61/83 which appears to be a original specimen. In the heading with the description it is written as male but the character of the antennae clearly indicates that the specimen was actually female and not male. Further, the locality label with the specimen is E. Indies but it is wrong because the reg. no. indicates that it was collected by Sir J. Hearsey from India. In the registration register lying in BMNH it is clearly written that the specimen received under reg. no. 61/83 were collected from India by Sir J. Hearsey when he was a Military Officer in Bengal and the specimen with this reg. no. are marked with the locality E. Indies. In view of the above facts the above female specimen is hereby treated as holotype. Abdomen of the specimen is broken.

Material examined ♀, "61/83, E. Indies" (gray, circular, handwritten), "Bengal" (white, rectangular, handwritten), "LEUCOMA SUBVITREA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

8. **Laelia suffusa** (WALKER, 1855)

Ricine suffusa WALKER, 1855

Procodeca angulifera WALKER, 1855

The original description is based on a single specimen from Java under a new genus *Ricine* WALKER. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 4.5 lines; of the wings 13 lines. a. Java. From the East India Company's collections" With

the original description of species the author has not mentioned the sex of specimen but this species is a type species of new genus *Ricine* WALKER and as the genus is monotypic the sex of the species will be the same as those of genus. In the description of the genus the sex of the specimen is given as male with question marks (Male?). From the antennal character of the genus (antennae minutely pectinated, about half of the length) it appears to be a female. In a copy of the above publication available in BMNH it is also handwritten as female. Therefore it is concluded that the type was a female and description is also for female but in the original description it is wrongly mentioned as male. In the BMNH the above single female specimen is available with reg. no. 50/44 and hereby treated as holotype.

The original description for *Procodeca angulifera* WALKER which is synonym of *Laelia suffusa* (WALKER), is based on a single male specimen from East Indies. Details of the material as given by the original author "Length of the body 5 lines; of the wings 14 lines. a. East Indies. From Archdeacon Clerk's collection" The above single male specimen is present in BMNH and hereby treated as holotype of *Procodeca angulifera* WALKER. The reg. no. of the above specimen is 43/43.

Material examined ♀, "50/44, Java" (white, circular, handwritten), "1. RICINE SUFFUSA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype); ♂, "43/43, E. Indies" (white, circular, handwritten), "2. PROCODECA ANGULIFERA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

9. *Laelia testacea* (WALKER, 1855)

Cycnia testacea WALKER, 1855

This species was originally described under genus *Cycnia* WALKER on the basis of a single female specimen from North India. The details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of the wings 14 lines. a. North India. From Mr. Steven's collection" The above specimen is present in BMNH with reg no. 48/131 and hereby treated as holotype.

Material examined ♀, "48/131, N. India" (gray, circular, handwritten), "CYCNIA TESTACEA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

10. *Lymantria incerta* WALKER, 1855

WALKER (1855) described this species from North India based on a single male specimen. Details of the material as given by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of the wings 17 lines. a. North India. From Mr. Steven's collection" The above specimen is present in BMNH with reg. no. 48/131 and hereby treated as holotype.

Material examined ♂, "48/131, N. India" (white, circular, handwritten), "16. LYMANTRIA INCERTA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

11. *Lymantria marginata* WALKER, 1855

The original description is based on a single female specimen from Silhet. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Wing span 27 lines. a. Silhet. Presented by E. Doubleday Esq." The above specimen is present in BMNH with reg. no. 43/58 and hereby treated as holotype. Both the antennae of the specimen are broken and wings are partly damaged.

Material examined ♀, "43/58, Silhet" (white, circular, handwritten) "11. LYMANTRIA MARGINATA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

12. *Lymantria obfuscata* WALKER, 1865

Originally this species was described from North India based on a single male specimen. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of

the wings 16 lines. a. North Hindostan. Presented by Captain Strachey" The above specimen is available in BMNH with reg. no. 60/39 and hereby treated as holotype. The genitalia is dissected out and kept by the side of specimen in tube no. 1966/132.

Material examined ♂, "60/39, N. India" (white, circular, handwritten), "LYMANTRIA OBFUSCATA" (white, rectangular, printed), "1966/132" (white, rectangular, handwritten) (Holotype) (BMNH).

13. *Pantana terminata* (WALKER, 1865)

Genusa terminata WALKER, 1865

WALKER (1865) described this species under genus *Genusa* WALKER on the basis of a single male specimen from India. Details of the material as mentioned by the original author "Length of the body 6 lines; of the wings 18 lines. a. Hindostan. Presented by Sir J. Hearsey" In the text locality of the specimen is mentioned as Hindostan presented by Sir J. Hearsey but the specimen available in BMNH with broken abdomen bears the label with locality E. Indies and reg. no. 61/83. The reg. no. shows that the specimen was presented by Sir J. Hearsey to BMNH in 1861 collected from Barrackpore (India). In the remark column of the registration register lying in BMNH it is written that generally the specimens received under reg. no. 61/83 are ticketed as E. Indies but they were collected by Hearsey from Barrackpore (India) when he was in command of Bengal Division with his headquarter at Barrackpore. In view of the above facts the specimen with reg. no. 61/83 is hereby treated as holotype with locality Barrackpore (India) and not E. Indies.

Material examined ♂, "TYPE" (green, circular, printed), "61/83, E. Indies" (gray, circular, handwritten), "GENUSA TERMINATA" (white, rectangular, printed) (Holotype) (BMNH).

14. *Pida apicalis* WALKER, 1865

Originally this species was described on the basis of a single male specimen from Darjeeling. Details of the material as given by the original author "a. Darjeeling. Presented by the Secretary of the India Board. Length of the body 10 lines; of the wings 32 lines" The above specimen is present in BMNH under reg. no. 60/15 and is hereby treated as holotype.

Material examined ♂, "TYPE" (green, circular, printed), "60/15, E. I. C." (white, rectangular, printed), "60/15, Darjeeling (Paris Exhib.)" other side of the label "Pida apicalis Walker type" (white, rectangular, handwritten) (Holotype) (BMNH).

Acknowledgements

The author is thankful to Head of the Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Director, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London and British Council for their help in making his visit to British Museum (Nat. Hist.) possible. He is also thankful to the Keeper, Department of Entomology and Mr. A. Watson of British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London for their permission to study the type specimens. Finally he is grateful to Drs. J. D. Bradley, M. S. K. Ghauri of Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London and Miss Swaraj Ghai, Senior Systematic Entomologist, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi for their constant encouragement during the course of present study.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Reichenbachia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1987-1988

Band/Volume: [25](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Gupta S. L.

Artikel/Article: [Studies on some of the typical specimens of Indian Lymantriidae described by the late Mr. F. WALKER in British Museum \(Nat. Hist.\), London \(Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuoidea\) 85-89](#)