

REICHENBACHIA

Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden

Band 32

Ausgegeben: 15. September 1998

Nr. 46

Nevadopalpa albula spec. nov. – a third species of the genus *Nevadopalpa* POVOLNÝ, 1998 from California (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)

With 1 Figure

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Abstract. The genus *Nevadopalpa* POVOLNÝ, 1998 comprises two species, viz. *Nevadopalpa striata* POVOLNÝ, 1998 and *Nevadopalpa minor* POVOLNÝ, 1998. In the following, a third species of this obviously endemic Nearctic gnorimoschemine genus is described, viz. *Nevadopalpa albula* spec. nov. The holotype moth is unicolorous milky white and its male genitalia show a short truncate pair of sacculus processes. This paired process together with the sickle-shaped tip of valva and the monotonous habitus of the moth characterize this obviously undescribed taxon which shows at the same time all characters typical of this genus.

Nevadopalpa albula spec. nov. (Fig. 1)

Male: A small, rather slender-winged moth of unicolorous milky white coloration, patternless. Male genitalia elongate with very slender ligulate saccus, paired truncate sacculus process on both sides of basally narrowed medial sacculus excision, valva strongly curved and pointed terminally, aedoeagus with a pair of acute, partly spiral-shaped needles.

Head, thorax and tegula pure milky white; slender labial palpus white, tip of second segment and pointed tip of third segment thinly black; forewing entirely whitish with tips of some scales slightly brownish, thin blackish scales near base of forewing costa and in wing apex marginally, cilia white; hindwing essentially whitish with admixture of thin greyish scales; cilia whitish; legs white with poor indication of blackish ringlets; forewing length 7 mm.

Male genitalia: Delicate, long and slender; uncus narrow chisel-shaped, upper ledge truncate, moderately convex, finely haired; gnathos shortly spine-shaped; medial excision of sacculus wall broadly V-shaped, but basally narrowed and parallel-sided, striking, short, paired sacculus process shortly truncate, especially its inside edge armoured with haired little spines; parabasal process of valva shortly lobate with a delicate, shortly digitate, finely haired process medially; valva slender with parallel-sided base but distinctly inflated terminally this inflation curved protruding to form a prolonged sickle-shaped spine; sacculus wall is continued by a convergent V-shaped ledge fusing to form a slender ligulate, long and parallel-sided saccus with obtusely rounded tip; vinculum edges distinct, shortly rounded; aedoeagus corresponding to half length of elongate genitalia axis, moderately curved, parallel-sided, tip obtuse, caecum aedeagi double tuber-shaped inflated. The paired generically

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Fig. 1: *Nevadopalpa albula* spec. nov., genitalia of male holotype (drawn after slide Pw. 1133)

characteristic needles arise from a flat bulbous inflation showing finely rounded edges, and are slightly shorter than aedeagus; these needles are filiform to ribbon-shaped and twice spiral-curved with acute tips.

Note: *Nevadopalpa albula* spec. nov. differs from *N. striata* POVOLNÝ and *N. minor* POVOLNÝ in several characters: First of all, the moth is nearly purely white and patternless. The male genitalia show very narrow and delicate saccus, paired sacculus process is not tipped, but truncate, valva terminally not only curved but acutely pointed, parabasal process, especially its tip very delicate, the paired ribbon-shaped needle is extremely prolonged. For other details compare the genitalia sketches.

Material studied: Holotype ♂, CALIFORNIA, Kern Co(nty), Red Rock Cyn., 2. V. 1968, J. POWELL collected at light (slide Pw. 1133).

Reference

POVOLNÝ, D. (1998): *Nevadopalpa* gen. nov. and *Neoschema* POVOLNÝ, 1967 stat. nov. – two new Nearctic genera of the tribe Gnorimoschemini, with descriptions of three new species (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae). – Ent. Abh. Mus. Tierkd. Dresden **58** (6): 119–130.

(Received on January 26, 1998)

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Reichenbachia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1997-1998

Band/Volume: [32](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Polony Dalibor

Artikel/Article: [Nevadopalpa albula spec. nov. - a third species of the genus Nevadopalpa Povolny, 1998 from California \(Insecta: Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae\) 313-315](#)