

Callima kenyensis Agassiz, sp. nov., description of a new species of Oecophoridae from Africa (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

David Agassiz

Abstract

A new species is described in the genus *Callima* Clemens, 1860 from Kenya, and this is compared with species from the Eastern Mediterranean and Zimbabwe.

Keywords: Insecta, Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae, *Callima*, new species, Kenya.

Callima kenyensis Agassiz, sp. nov., descripción de una nueva especie de Oecophoridae de África (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie del género *Callima* Clemens, 1860 para Kenia y se compara con especies del este del Mediterráneo y Zimbabwe.

Palabras clave: Insecta, Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae, *Callima*, nueva especie, Kenia.

Introduction

Berggren & Aarvik (2024) published a paper describing six species of the genus *Callima* Clemens, 1860 from the eastern Mediterranean and one from Zimbabwe. On receipt of this paper I looked at my specimens of Oecophoridae from Africa and it was immediately apparent that there was a further species of *Callima* from Kenya.

Callima kenyensis Agassiz, sp. nov.

<https://zoobank.org/DDDB960A-A805-4812-A098-6D163B9BD1DA>

Type material: Holotype ♀: KENYA, Rift Valley, Turi, 8000ft, 2-III-2000 D. J. L. Agassiz. Paratypes, same locality as holotype, 2 ♂, 5-II-1999; 1 ♀, 12-II-1999; 1 ♀, 8-II-2000; 1 ♀, 6-III-2000. All of the type series were taken at light. Type series in due course to be deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (NHMUK).

Description of species (figure 1): Wingspan 9-12 mm. Head blackish brown, frons grey; labial palpus with basal segment dark brown, segment 2 white at base then dark brown, segment 3 with a white tip; scape dark brown, flagellomeres dark brown weakly annulate paler. Thorax dark brown, tegulae orange. Forewing pattern as for the genus as described by Berggren & Aarvik (2024), costal suffusion dull orange-brown, median yellow blotch absent, terminal dark fascia broad.

Characters and wing pattern are described in the same way as those in Berggren & Aarvik (2024.)

Male genitalia (figure 2): Valva evenly tapered, costa straight juxta lobes shorter than valva, phallus simple towards apex.

Female genitalia (figure 3): Posterior end of segment 8 without lobes, ductus bursae with an enlarged section.

Diagnosis: The wing markings are similar to those of other species in *Callima* but the subterminal yellow blotch is much smaller than in other species and the yellow fringe of the forewing is narrower or lacking. In the male genitalia the costal edge of the valva is straight near the tegumen and the juxta lobes arising from the base are short, as in *C. levantina*.

Derivation. The species is named after the country where it was found.

Discussion: As pointed out by Berggren & Aarvik (2024.) the *Callima icterinella* group of species are from the Eastern Mediterranean with one species, somewhat surprisingly, from Zimbabwe. The new species from high altitude in tropical Africa bridges the gap in the distribution of the genus and it will not be surprising if others occur, perhaps in Ethiopia.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that he has no financial interest or personal relationship that could influence the work presented in this article.

Reference

Berggren, K., & Aarvik, L. (2024). *Callima icterinella* (Mann, 1867) comb. nov. (Lepidoptera, Oecophoridae), a complex consisting of seven species. *Norwegian journal of Entomology*, 71, 95-108.

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Figures 1-3. 1. *Callima kenyensis* adult. 2. ♂ genitalia. 3. ♀ genitalia.

