

A new species of the genus *Nycterotis* Felder, 1874 from Central Brazil (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae, Nystaleinae)

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Abstract

Nycterotis rhudarioides Becker, sp. n., belonging to the *aroata*-group, from Central Brazil, is described.
KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Notodontidae, *Nycterotis*, new species, taxonomy, Brazil.

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Resumen

Se describe *Nycterotis rhudarioides* Becker, sp. n., perteneciente al grupo *aroata*, del centro de Brasil.
PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Notodontidae, *Nycterotis*, nueva especie, taxonomía, Brasil.

Introduction

The New World genus *Nycterotis* Felder, 1874, includes 34 species, ranging from the Southern United States to Argentina (BECKER, 2014: 17). Of these, 25 species were treated before [as *Pentobesa* Schaus, 1901, a junior synonym]; the *xylinoides*-group, with five species, by WELLER (1991), and 20, clustered into four species-groups, by THIAUCOURT (2008). The remaining species, including several names treated as junior synonyms, were transferred from other genera, mostly from *Dasylophia* Packard, 1864 by BECKER (2014: 17). The new species described here, restricted to the Cerrado [Savanna] Region of Central Brazil, belongs to the *aroata*-group.

Nycterotis rhudarioides Becker, sp. n.

Material examined: Holotype ♂, BRAZIL: DF, Planaltina, 15° 35'S, 47° 42'W, 1100 m, 15-V-1982 (Becker, VOB 40210); Paratypes: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, same data, but 30-V-1978 (VOB 34688, g. s. 4641), 20-IV-1982 (VOB 39923), respectively; 1 ♂, Idem: GO: Formosa, 800 m, 19-III-1977 (VOB 20221) (VOB).

Description: Male 25 mm (58 mm wingspan) (Fig. 1). Head, thorax, forewings and abdomen gray, mixed with whitish scales. Labial palpi with ventral, longitudinal dark gray line; dark gray dorsally. Antennae gray; tips of pectination white. Forewings with a diffuse, arched, blackish band, from basal third of costa, bending obliquely towards lower margin of cell, following it, then bending evenly towards apex. Hind wings semitranslucent whitish; a few dark scales near tornus, forming a diffuse, narrow wedge-shaped mark pointing inwards. Abdomen paler ventrally, with a diffuse, dark gray line along middle.

Female: 29 mm (63 mm wingspan) (Fig. 2). Similar to male. Wings broader; termen more rounded. Hind wings with dark scales along posterior margin.

Genitalia male (Figs. 3-4): Uncus long, broad, bent ventrad; apex heart-shaped distally; a small tooth near middle, ventrally. Socii long, cylindrical, apex slightly curved outwards. Valvae short, broad; costa evenly curved, broad end with a digital expansion ventrally, bent distad; sacculus a weakly sclerotized long triangle; vinculum round. Aedeagus straight, cylindrical, gradually expanded distad; apex with a blunt, short tooth dorsally and a pair of short teeth ventrally. Vesica with a few small spines and several deciduous stellate spinulae. Eighth sternite assymmetrical, divided along middle; distal margin very complex, as shown in figure 5.

Diagnosis: Forewings gray with contrasting dark gray marks; hind wings semitranslucent white. It is the only species in the genus lacking an ochreous tinge on the forewings, thus resembling some species of *Rhudara* Thiaucourt, 1996 especially *R. trepida* (Draudt, 1932) and allies. This character makes it readily distinguishable from all other species in the genus. The male genitalia are similar to those of *R. apostatica* (Dyar, 1915) and *R. densissima* (Dyar, 1915), having the apex of valva similar to those of the former and the uncus like that of the latter.

Etymology: Derived from *Rhudara* Thiaucourt, a Heterocampinae genus.

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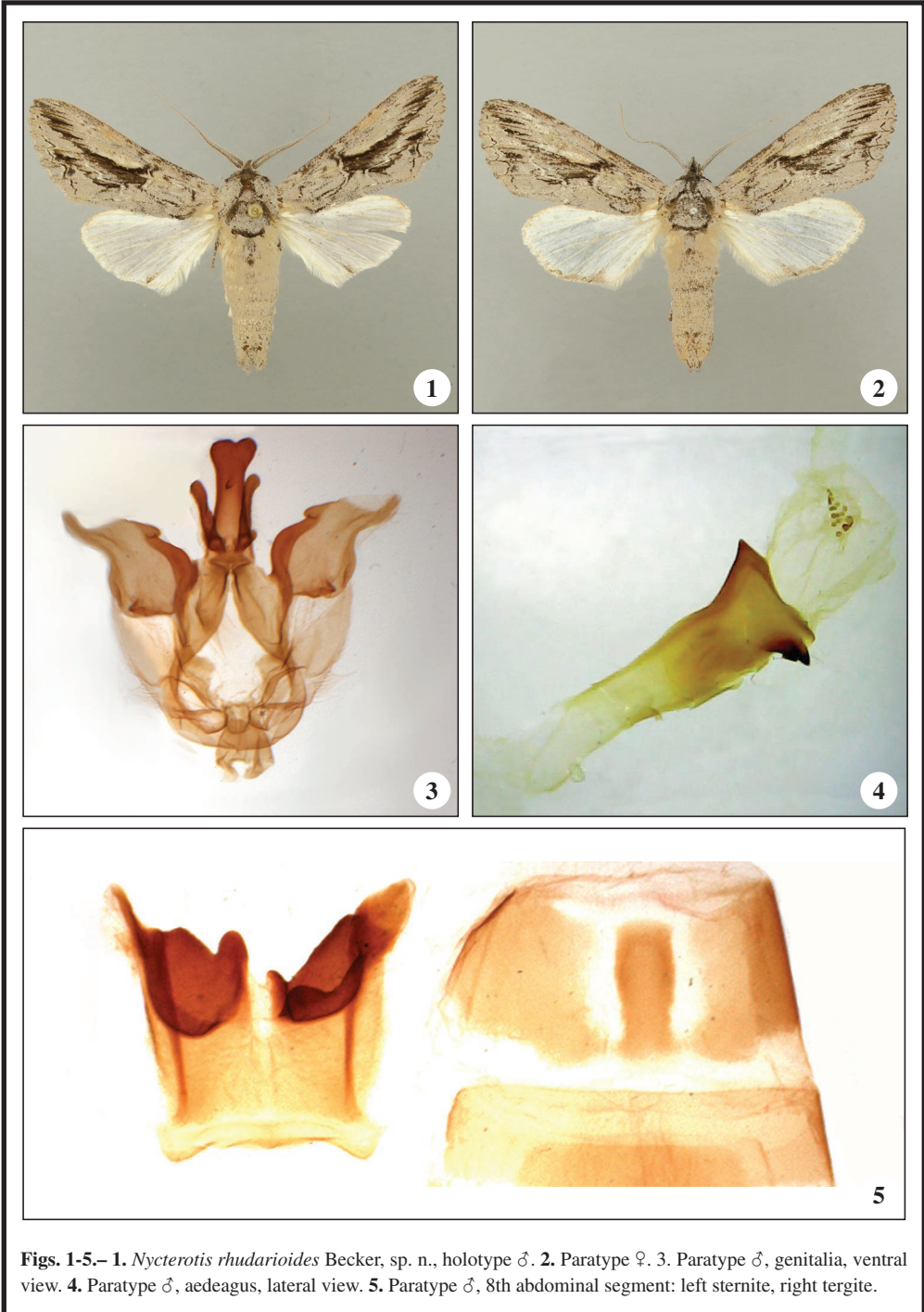
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Figs. 1-5.— 1. *Nycterotis rhudarioides* Becker, sp. n., holotype ♂. 2. Paratype ♀. 3. Paratype ♂, genitalia, ventral view. 4. Paratype ♂, aedeagus, lateral view. 5. Paratype ♂, 8th abdominal segment: left sternite, right tergite.