

**Contribution to the knowledge of *Yponomeutoidea* (Lepidoptera). III.
Argyresthia (*Blastotere*) *uralensis* sp. n., a new species from Russia
(Lepidoptera: Argyresthiidae)**

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ABSTRACT. *Argyresthia* (*Blastotere*) *uralensis* sp. n. is described from Russia. Type specimens were obtained at the end of June in virgin taiga forests in the southern Ural Mountains. *A. (B.) uralensis* belongs to the same species group as *A. (B.) glabratella* ZELLER, 1847 having characteristic cornuti in the aedeagus in the male (FRIESE 1969).

KEY WORDS: *Argyresthiidae*, *Argyresthia* (*Blastotere*) *uralensis* sp. n., Russia, Ural Mountains.

INTRODUCTION

RATZEBURG (1840) described a new genus *Blastotere* with *B. bergiella* being the type species of this genus. Later (MORIUTI, 1969) considered that the form of the signum is a rather inessential difference and reduced *Blastotere* to subgeneric status in the genus *Argyresthia* HÜBNER, 1825. Simultaneously, he subdivided the subgenera (*Argyresthia* and *Blastotere*) into two groups. Nowadays the genus *Argyresthia* is represented in the Palaearctic region by more than 70 known species (GERSHENSON 1974, GIBEAUX 1983, FRIESE 1969, MORIUTI 1969). All these taxa, including *A. (B.) uralensis*, have the male genitalia typical of this genus and subgenus (FREEMAN 1972, GIBEAUX 1983, MORIUTI 1965 and 1969). During our studies on the genus *Argyresthia* we found two specimens from the South Ural Mountains, Russia, which belong to a new species described below.

Acknowledgements

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Argyresthia (Blastotere) uralensis* sp. n.*Material examined****Holotype** (Fig. 1).

♂. Russia, S-Ural, Chelyabinsk district, Iremel Mountain Reserve, 900-1300 m, 26.06.1996 K. Nupponen, J.-P. Kaitila, J. Junnilainen & M. Ahola leg. Genitalia slide: 03010201 Junnilainen. The holotype will be deposited in the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki.

Paratype

♂, same data as holotype. Genitalia slide: 03010202 (in coll. Jari Junnilainen, Vantaa, Finland).



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Argyresthia (B.) uralensis*.

Diagnosis

A. (B.) uralensis sp. n. is similar to *A. (B.) glabratella* with its unicolorous, shining, yellowish-grey forewings (FRIESE 1969, GIBEAUX 1983), but differs in the shapes of the valva and cornuti in the aedeagus.

Description

Wing span 9.2-11.2 mm (♂). Forewings lanceolate, unicolorous shining yellowish-grey. Hindwing glossy whitish-grey with a freckling of dark grey scales; fringe long, concolorous with forewing. Head glossy, yellowish, frons with rough lamellar scales. Scape of antenna and pecten yellowish, paler than forewing. Flagellum yellowish; the first flagellomeres dark grey, ringed; the last flagellomeres clearly pointed. Compound eyes dark grey. Labial palpus, glossy, yellowish, third segment curved. Haustellum yellowish-brown, short, slightly scrolled. Thorax and tegulae concolorous with forewings, abdomen whitish. First pair of legs differently coloured: femur brownish with some yellowish scales, tibia brownish-yellow, first segment of tarsus brownish, others shining whitish-grey. Others pairs of legs shining whitish-yellow.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2a). Socius with about 36 specialised scales (Fig. 2f); at the top one or two minute hairs. Valva rounded, clothed with separate short hairs on ventral margin, longer hairs on ventral margin of valva (2 b). Aedeagus a little longer than valva, and armed with many denticles (Fig. 2c). Cornuti consist of a long spine and numerous spinules (Fig. 2d). The plate of the 8th abdominal segment is small (Fig. 2e).

Female genitalia. Unknown.

Distribution

Known from the type locality.

Biology

Unknown.

A. (B.) uralensis is probably a spring species because it was observed at the end of June. Two males were collected in a virgin taiga forest with old coniferous trees such as *Picea abies*, *Larix sibirica* and *Abies alba*. Although the immature stages remain unknown, the presumed host plant is one of the above-mentioned coniferous trees.

Etymology

The specific name refers to the Ural Mountains.

Remarks

A. (B.) uralensis sp. n. is similar to *A. (B.) glabratella* ZELLER, 1847 in the characters of the aedeagus, valvae and the specialised scale of the socius (FRIESE 1969), and the forewing is shining yellowish-grey in both species.

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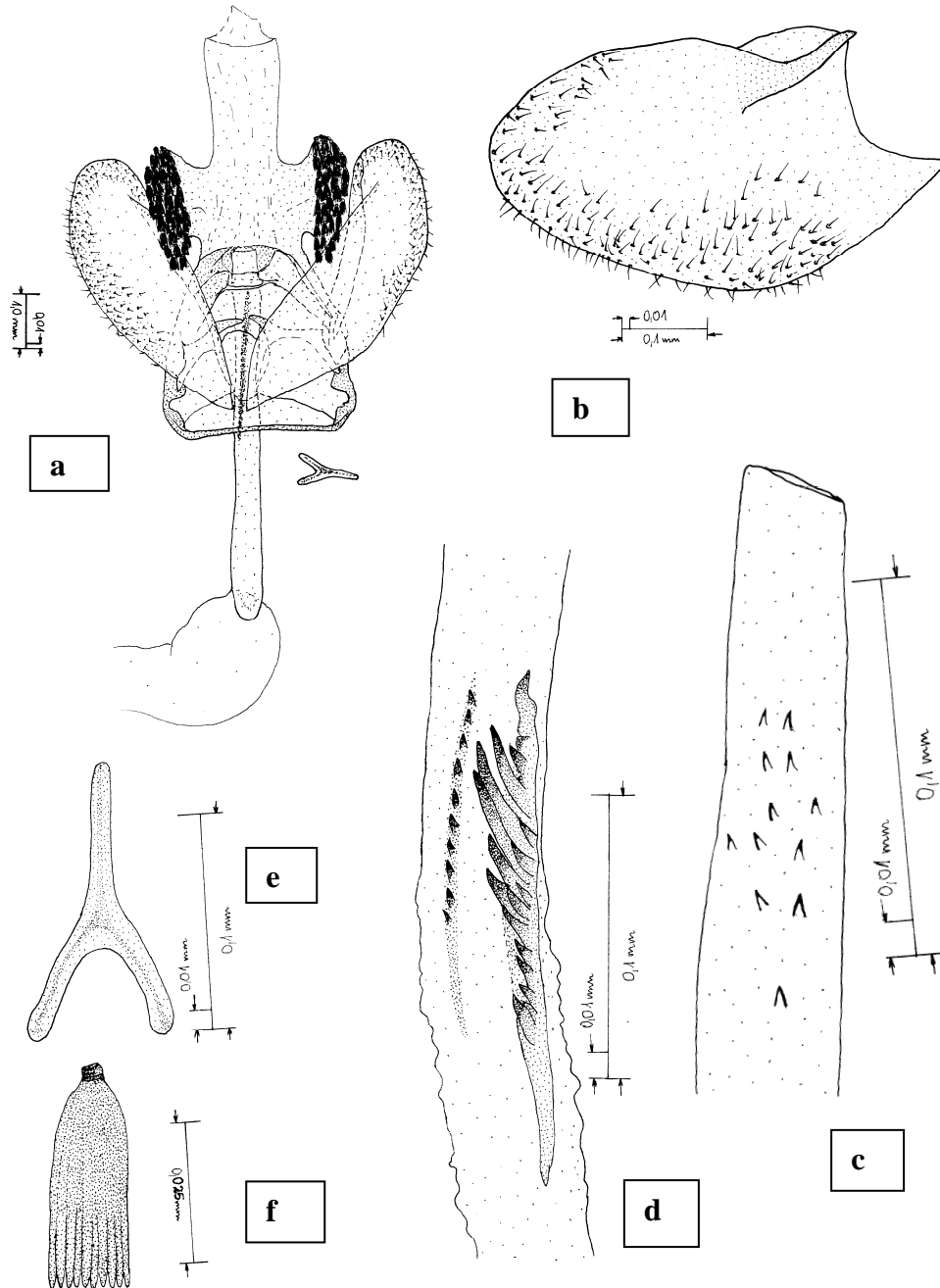


Fig. 2a-f. *Argyresthia (B.) uralensis* sp. n., male genitalia: a – ventral aspect, b – separated left valva, c – aedeagus, lateral aspect, d – aedeagus with cornuti, ventral aspect, e – plate of 8th abdominal segment, f – specialised scale of socius.

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