

On the taxonomic position of ‘*Siccia*’ *yvonneae* Kühne, 2007 (Lepidoptera: Nolidae: Nolinae)

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Abstract

Siccia yvonneae Kühne, 2007 described as member of Lithosiini (Erebidae, Arctiinae) is transferred in the present paper to the genus *Meganola* Dyar, 1898 of Nolini (Nolidae, Nolinae): *Meganola yvonneae* (Kühne, 2007), **comb. nov.** *Meganola yvonneae* is compared to *M. conspicua* Dyar, 1898 type species of the genus, to *M. albula* ([Denis & Schiffmüller], 1775) a widespread Palearctic species and to *Manoba lithosiformis* László, Ronkay & Ronkay, 2014 described from the Philippines as an example of a Nolinae reminding of the general habitus of *Siccia* from SE Asia. The adult and genitalia of the Lithosiini *Siccia caffra* Walker, 1854 are also figured for comparative purposes.

Key words: taxonomy, new combination, *Meganola*, Nolini, Lithosiini, Afrotropics

Introduction

During the taxonomic studies on the Nolinae (Nolidae) and Arctiinae (Erebidae) material of the African Natural History Research Trust, the authors of the present paper came across a peculiar, large *Meganola* Dyar, 1898 collected in Liberia reminding the authors of the Lithosiini genus *Siccia* Walker, 1854 rather than the Nolidae genus *Meganola*. Despite the atypical appearance for a *Meganola*, this species has male and female genitalia fitting morphologically well into what is observed in the mega diverse genus *Meganola* (cf. Hacker *et al.* 2012, László *et al.* 2015). In addition, the configuration of its labial palps also excludes any conjunction with Lithosiini. During a review of the relevant literature, this species has been found in Kühne’s work on African Lithosiini described as *Siccia yvonneae* (Kühne, 2007). Thus, the current generic combination of the species requires correction and it is transferred here to the genus *Meganola* of Nolidae. Hence, the new taxonomic combination of the species is *Meganola yvonneae* (Kühne, 2007) **comb. nov.**

Material and methods

The genitalia were dissected, stained with Eosin red and mounted in Euparal on microscope slides using standard methods of preparation (Lafontaine & Mikkola 1987; Kononenko 2003). Photos of adults were taken using Nikon D3100/AF-S and Nikon D90 cameras equipped with Nikkor, 18–55 mm and Nikkor AF Micro 60 mm lenses, respectively. Genitalia images were taken with a Nikon D3100/AF-S camera attached to a Leitz Diaplan compound microscope with an LM-scope adapter and a Nikon DS-Fi1 digital camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse 80i compound microscope. The morphological terminology applied in the present paper follows the work of Kononenko (2010).

Abbreviations of the depositories used:

ANHRT—African Natural History Research Trust, Leominster, UK;