

Four new species of the genus *Tumicla* Wallengren, 1863 (Lepidoptera: Erebidae: Arctiinae: Lithosiini)

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Abstract

The present paper contains descriptions of four new species of the genus *Tumicla* Wallengren, 1863: *T. elephantina* sp. nov. (South Mozambique), *T. mbeghai* sp. nov. (NE Tanzania), *T. admiranda* sp. nov. (SE Democratic Republic of the Congo) and *T. smithi* sp. nov. (Central Zambia). The male paratype specimen of *T. doa* Kühne 2007 is proved to be not conspecific with the holotype female but belongs to an undescribed species described here as *T. mbeghai* sp. nov. rendering *Tumicla doa* to be known by the female holotype only. Adults, male and female genitalia of the new and related species are illustrated.

Key words: Nudariina, *Tumicla*, new species, Sub-Saharan Africa, Afrotropics, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia

Introduction

The genus *Tumicla* Wallengren, 1863 (= *Asuroides* Durante, 2008) is widely distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa. The checklist of the genus has recently been published by Volynkin & László (2018). Up to now, it included 21 valid species (Kühne 2007; Durante 2008; Volynkin & László 2018).

During the study of the Lithosiini collection held at the African Natural History Research Trust, two unidentified species of *Tumicla* recently collected in southern Mozambique and Central Zambia were found. Their external appearance and male and female genitalia differ significantly from those of all known *Tumicla* species, therefore these species are described here as new to science.

Tumicla doa (Kühne, 2007) was described based on the holotype female from eastern Tanzania (Nguru Mts.) and two paratypes, a male from north-eastern Tanzania (Usambara Mts.) and a female from South Africa (Kühne 2007). The single male paratype has forewing shape and pattern essentially different from those of the holotype female exceeding the level that could be explained by sexual dimorphism. Examination of specimens of both sexes from Amani (Usambara Mts) found in the accessory Lithosiini materials of the Natural History Museum, London confirmed that the type series of *T. doa* contains up to three species, therefore the male paratype along with the newly found specimens of both sexes from Usambara Mts belong to another, yet undescribed species related to the new species from Mozambique.

In the course of studying the accessory Lithosiini materials of the Natural History Museum, London, two specimens of a further unidentified species collected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were found. The species has a peculiar external appearance, and the examination of its genitalia confirmed its distinctness from all known *Tumicla* species, therefore it has been proved to be new to science.

The present paper contains the descriptions of the four new *Tumicla* species mentioned above.