


Two new *Exilisia* Toulgoët, 1958 from mainland Africa (Lepidoptera, Erebidae, Arctiinae)

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Exilisia Toulgoët, 1958 is a genus of the tribe Lithosiini distributed in the Afrotropical Region, including 38 valid species and one subspecies (De Prins & De Prins 2019) and reaching its highest species diversity in the island of Madagascar. In the mainland Africa, the genus is represented by seven valid species to date (Kühne 2007).

In the Lithosiini collection held at the African Natural History Research Trust, a series of unidentified species of *Exilisia* recently collected in Liberia was found. In addition, two male specimens of another unidentified species from Kenya were found in the accessory Lithosiini materials deposited in the Natural History Museum, London. Their male genitalia structures show significant differences compared to those of the related *E. bipuncta* (Hampson, 1900) and *E. prominentia* Kühne, 2007 proving that they belong to other, yet undescribed species, the descriptions of which are given in the present paper. It is worth to mention that the genus in its current volume is heterogenous and male genitalia of some species (including the two new ones) associated with it are significantly different from those of the type species *E. punctata* (Hampson, 1900). However, at present it is impossible to make decisions about the generic and subgeneric structure of this group until a full revision of the genus is done. In the present paper, I provisionally place the new species within *Exilisia*.

Abbreviations of the depositories used: ANHRT = African Natural History Research Trust, Leominster, United Kingdom; NHMUK (formerly BMNH) = Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom. The genitalia were dissected and mounted in euparal on glass slides. The photos of adults were taken using a Nikon D3100/AF-S camera equipped with a Nikkor, 18–55 mm lens. The photos of genitalia were taken by the same camera attached to a microscope with an LM-scope adapter. All pictures were processed using the Adobe Photoshop CC 2018® software.

Exilisia ngai Volynkin, sp. nov. (Figs 1, 2, 7)

Holotype (Figs 1, 7): ♂, “Nairobi, Dec. 1952, E. Pinhey” / “Pres. by Coryndon Mus. B.M. 1961-696.” / label with QR-code “NHMUK 010918143”, slide NHMUK010315783 Volynkin (Coll. NHMUK).

Paratype: ♂, Ngong, Nairobi, Oct.-Nov. 1954, Fowler & Coulson / Pres. by Coryndon Mus. B.M. 1961-696. / NHMUK 010918144, slide NHMUK010315784 Volynkin (Coll. NHMUK).

Diagnosis. *Exilisia ngai* (Figs 1, 2) is similar externally to the South African *E. bipuncta* (Fig. 6) and the West Kenyan *E. prominentia* (illustrated by Kühne 2007: figs 152, 153) and can be distinguished from them by the genitalia structures only. The male genitalia of *E. ngai* (Fig. 7) differs clearly from those of *E. bipuncta* (Fig. 9; Kühne 2007: fig. 52) and *E. prominentia* (illustrated by Kühne 2007: fig. 53) by its longer and narrower left subapical costal process (that is broader and shorter in *E. bipuncta* and *E. prominentia*), smaller right subapical costal process, more robust right apical costal process with a broad arrow-shaped tip (in *E. bipuncta* and *E. prominentia* that is narrow, finger like), and longer and curved right distal saccular process with a club-like broadened tip (that is short, directed distally and has a tapered tip in *E. bipuncta* and a foot-shaped tip in *E. prominentia*). In addition, the band-like fused transtillae of *E. ngai* are longer and more heavily sclerotised, the left apical costal process is narrower, the left distal saccular process is well developed (that is absent in *E. bipuncta*), and the right subapical saccular process is shorter and much broader compared to those of *E. bipuncta*. Compared to *E. prominentia*, the male genitalia of *E. ngai* is also characterized by its narrower tip of saccus, left distal saccular process being narrower basally and twisted and blunt apically (that is broad basally and thorn-like apically in *E. prominentia*), and the presence of right distal and subapical saccular processes (both are absent in *E. prominentia*).