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Article

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Descriptions of three new *Sonitha* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010 (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae: Lasiocampinae: Gastropachini) from West Africa in the collections of the African Natural History Research Trust, with taxonomic notes on the genus

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Abstract
Three new species of *Sonitha* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010 are described from recently collected West African material housed in the African Natural History Research Trust: *S. smithi* **sp. n.**, *S. bryoniae* **sp. n.** and *S. laszloi* **sp. n.** Taxonomic notes are provided for the hitherto poorly-delimited *S. libera* (Aurivillius, 1914) and *S. chocolatina* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010 with clear specific boundaries established for the two taxa.

Key words Upper Guinean Forest, Liberian subregion, Dahomey Gap, speciation.

Introduction

As part of their review of two Gastropachine lappet moth genera, *Opisthodontia* Aurivillius, 1895 and *Stenophatna* Aurivillius, 1909, Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) erected several new genera of which one was *Sonitha* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010, with its type species *Stenophatna libera* Aurivillius, 1915. Members of *Sonitha* share affinities with *Stenophatna* but can be distinguished by the more elongate wings and in the male genitalia, the presence of socii, the absence of long apical processes of the tegumen, and apically hooked valves (Zolotuhin & Prozorov 2010). Nine species were originally included in *Sonitha*, eight of which were new at the time (Zolotuhin & Prozorov 2010), and a further four species have been described since (Prozorov 2016; Prozorov *et al*. 2023; Tejuoso *et al*. 2024). The genus was briefly reviewed by Prozorov (2016) and a key to the species was included which was utilised to identify the specimens held at the African Natural History Research Trust (Leominster, UK). Although the majority of the species could be confidently identified, there were several which did not agree with the species delimitations in Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) and Prozorov (2016); through morphological comparisons and investigations into the genital morphology, it has become apparent that they constitute distinct, undescribed taxa. The results and descriptions are provided herein.

Materials and methods

Preparation of genitalia followed Lafontaine & Mikkola (1987), the phalluses were lightly stained with Eosin red and the dissected genitalia mounted in Euparal on microscope slides. Genitalia were photographed using a Canon EOS 700D camera mounted on a Leitz Diaplan compound microscope. Adults were photographed using a Canon EOS 80D with a Canon 100mm Macro lens. All images were edited in Adobe Photoshop. Primary label data have been transcribed verbatim with "//" denoting a different label and "/" denoting a line break. Genital terminology follows Prozorov *et al*. (2023) with the exception of the terms "cucullus" and "lateral socia [sic]" which are incorrectly applied (see Fig. 9 in Prozorov *et al*. 2023). The two juxtal lobes are sometimes fused basally and/or apically (but not necessarily along the whole length) and in such cases, they have not been forced apart; the extent of fusion is deemed not to be a species-specific character.

Abbreviations used in the text:

ANHRT	African Natural History Research Trust, Leominster, UK
NHMUK	Natural History Museum, London, UK

Results

Taxonomic notes

Sonitha libera (Aurivillius, 1914) and *Sonitha chocolatina* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010

The holotype of *S. libera* in NHMUK has only a single vague locality data label of "W. Africa. / M. Pounds. / 1910–239. [handwritten]" (Fig. 2) but contrary to Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) "M. Pounds" does not refer to a locality but a collector. The accession number indicates that 15 specimens of Lepidoptera "collected by Mr M. Pounds" were purchased by NHMUK from Emily Bowdler Sharpe in 1910. The precise provenance of these fifteen specimens remains unclear but based on the distribution of Aurivillius' species (see below) and speculatively its specific epithet, it is likely to be from the Liberian subregion of the Upper Guinean Forests. Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) considered specimens from both West and Central Africa to be conspecific due to their very similar external appearance and a conclusion appears to have been drawn *a priori* by Prozorov (2016: 1106) that the two populations *must* be the same despite the evidently different shaped eighth sternite, thus concluding that species identifications based purely on genitalia seemed "impossible". Although the genital capsule is mounted laterally in the historic slide preparation of the *S. libera* holotype, the eighth sternite is well presented (see Fig. 2a in Prozorov 2016) and the general outline as well as the distance between the distal processes clearly exceeds the boundaries of intraspecific variation when compared to other congeners. One of the eight new species described by Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) was *Sonitha chocolatina* based on two males from Gabon. In their brief diagnosis, it is stated that this species can readily be identified based on wing colouration and pattern as well as the concave outer margin of the hindwing. There is no mention or comparison of the genitalia but from the figures (rather unfortunately placed on different plates), the difference between the sympatric *S. libera* sensu Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) from Gabon and the holotype of *S. chocolatina* is minimal (the vesica in Fig. 102 of Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) is not fully everted and the tip of the cornutus is broken). Moreover, in Prozorov's (2016: 1106) later key to the *Sonitha* species, the differentiating characters are unclear (couplet 16 for *S. chocolatina* and *S. lapa* Prozorov, 2016 stating "General coloration [sic] of wings not brown" and couplet 17 for *S. chocolatina* confusingly starting with "Wings rufous-brown") due in part to the poor delimitation of the species boundaries. A specimen from Gabon in ANHRT with a slightly concave outer margin matching the holotype of *S. chocolatina* was dissected and compared to a Gabonese *S. libera* sensu Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010) caught in the same collecting event and these two specimens are conspecific (Figs 4–5). Furthermore, this Central African taxon is clearly distinct from true *S. libera* (the male genitalia of a modern specimen illustrated here for the first time in Fig. 6), which is restricted to the forested regions

west of the Dahomey Gap. Below, the male genitalia and the unknown female of *S. libera* are described, the two species in question are compared and delimited, and differential diagnoses are provided.

***Sontiha libera* (Aurivillius, 1914)**
(Figs 1–3, 6)

Stenophatna libera Aurivillius, 1914: 8.
Sonitha libera (Aurivillius, 1914): Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010: 425; Prozorov, 2016: 1103 (*partim*).

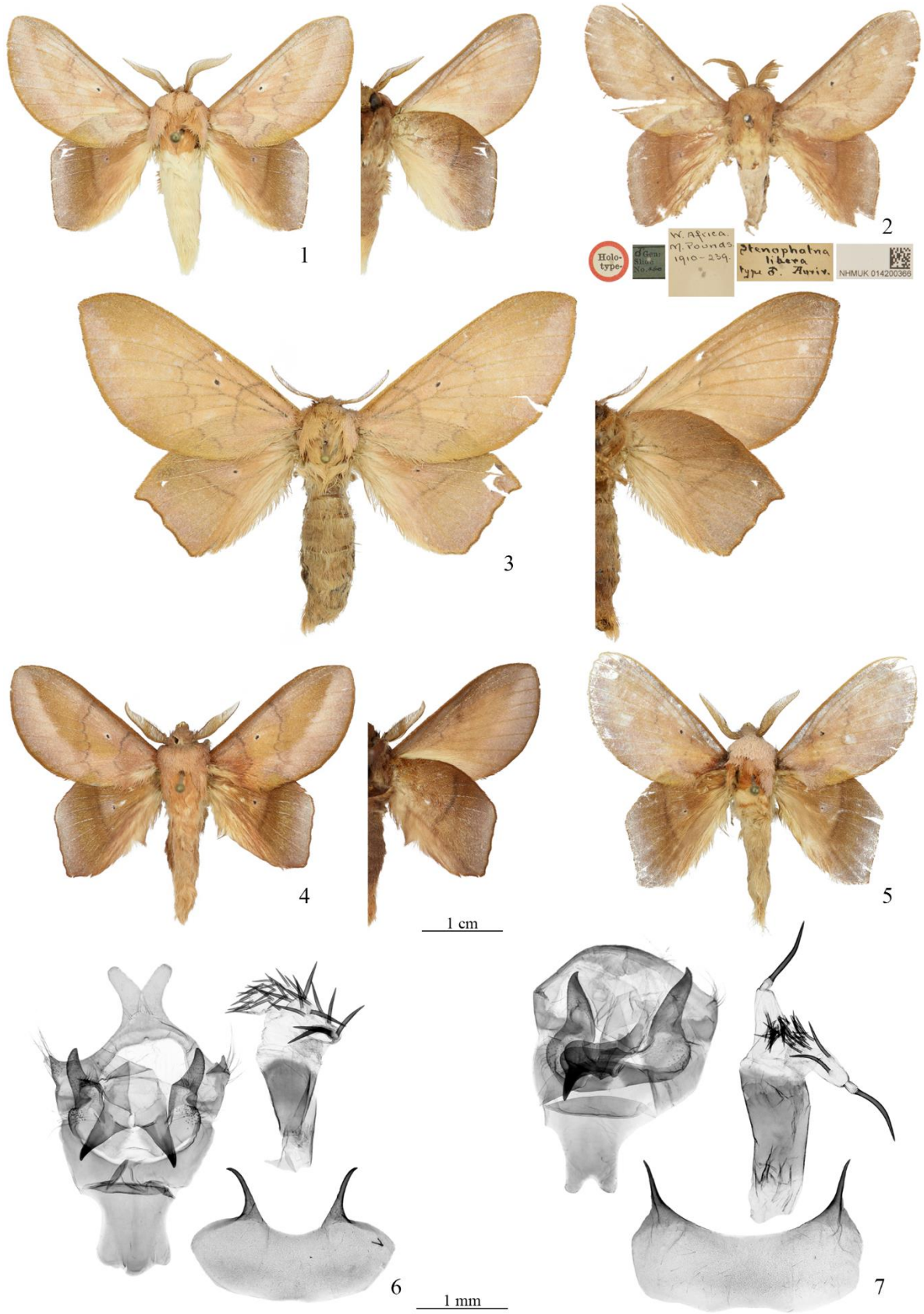
Description of male genitalia (Fig. 6).
Socii as long as valve, basally fused, distal free sections digitiform and diverging. Tegumen with triangular lateral process. Valve short, narrow at base, tapering distad, apically curved dorsad and rounded at apex. Juxta with a pair of elongate triangular lobes. Saccus trilobed caudally. Phallus short, tightly attached to juxta; sclerotised section of phallus expanded distally. Vesica with short lateral diverticula, covered in ca. 30 long cornuti. Eighth sternite ovoid with two long, thin, apically pointed, diverging mediodistal processes.

Description of female (Fig. 3).
LIBERIA: Nimba Mountains, Mount Gangra, western slope, 700m, 07°33’29.73”N, 08°38’16.4”W, 16–17.iii.2017, leg. S. Sáfián & G. Simonics (1♀ ANHRT).

Forewing length. 31 mm. Upperside. Ground colour of head, thorax and wings beige with pink irroration throughout; abdomen with darker brown scales. Antenna bipectinate, beige. Forewing angled at apex, outer margin broadly arcuate. Antemedial fascia curved, grey, angled at cell and vein CuA2. Discal spot small, black, ringed in pale pink. Postmedial fascia grey, arising midway along costal margin, gently crenulate to vein R5 where it angles sharply towards anal margin becoming strongly crenulate. Marginal area pale pink, delimited by a gently convex arc from apex to tornus. Fringe beige. Hindwing outer margin produced and sharply angled in space M2, straight and crenulate to tornal angle. Discal spot small, black, ringed in pale pink. Postmedial fascia almost straight, from two-thirds of the way along costa to midway along anal margin. Fringe brown. Underside. Ground colour similar to upperside but darker. Forewing apical and marginal areas with heavy suffusion of charcoal scales. Antemedial and postmedial fasciae, and discal spot absent. Hindwing with heavy suffusion of charcoal scales throughout. Postmedial fascia more diffuse running the same course as on upperside. Discal spot absent.

Diagnosis. In the males, *S. libera* is in general a smaller insect with forewing lengths of 18–21 mm (n=10) compared to 21–23 mm (n=13) in *S. chocolatina*. On the upperside, there is a greater suffusion of pink scaling in the former most noticeable on the forewing, thus contrasting less with the paler marginal band. The ground colour of the wings is a darker brown in the latter most noticeable basally on the hindwing upperside. Similarly, the underside ground colour is much darker brown in *S. chocolatina* whereas in *S. libera* there is a distinctive rosy hue. The male genitalia easily distinguish these two species: in *S. chocolatina*, the socii are considerably shorter, the triangular lateral processes of the tegumen are heavily reduced, the valves are hooked and apically pointed, the juxtal lobes are strongly dilated medially giving the impression of a ‘bird’s head’, the saccus is bilobed caudally, the phallus is longer, the vesica is bilobed with a long cornutus at each apex, and the processes of the trapezoidal eighth sternite are positioned laterodistally. In comparing the female of *S. libera* to the specimen of *S. chocolatina* figured in Zolotuhin & Prozorov (2010: Plate 23, Fig. 137 as *S. libera*), the latter is darker brown in colouration with a better contrasting pale marginal area of the forewing and tornal area of the hindwing, the discal spots are white, and the hindwing outer margin is less produced in space M2 and less crenulate to the tornal angle. As these two species are distributed allopatrically, there is unlikely to be any confusion in specimens with good provenance.

Distribution. Liberia, Ivory Coast.



Figures 1–7. *Sonitha* species. 1. *S. libera* (Aurivillius, 1915), ♂, Liberia, Nimba Mts. [ANHRTUK 00261556]. 2. *Id*., holotype ♂ of *Stenophatna libera* Aurivillius, 1915 [NHMUK 014200366]. 3. *Id*., ♀, Liberia, Nimba Mts. [ANHRTUK 00056329]. 4. *S. chocolatina* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010, ♂, Gabon, Mts. de Cristal [ANHRTUK 00204687]. 5. *Id*., ♂, *id*. [ANHRTUK 00129611]. 6. Male genitalia of *S. libera*, Liberia [HT 008]. 7. Male genitalia of *S. chocolatina*, Gabon [HT 006].

***Sonitha chocolatina* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010**
(Figs 4–5, 7)

= *Sonitha libera* sensu Zolotuhin & Prozorov (nec Aurivillius), 2010: 425; Prozorov, 2016: 1103 (*partim*).

Diagnosis. See above under *S. libera*.

Distribution. Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Description of the new species

***Sonitha smithi* sp. n.**
https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:5BF12634-9EC9-48C9-8961-5FB1F67BC672
(Figs 8, 10)

Holotype ♂ (ANHRT):
"GUINEA 1289m / Dalaba, Foret de Tinka / 10°43'14"N, 12°15'22"W / 25–28.ix.2019 MV Light Trap / Geiser M., Leno, M., / Koivagui, S., Miles, W., / Mulvaney, L. & Sáfián, Sz. Leg. / ANHRT:2019.19 // ANHRTUK / 00139392"

Paratypes (3♂♂):
GUINEA: same data as holotype (2♂♂); LIBERIA: East Nimba Nature Reserve, Cellcom Road, 1300m, 07°31'02.18"N, 08°31'01.90"W, 24–28.xii.2018, leg. S. Sáfián & G. Simonics (1♂ ANHRT).

Description.
Forewing length: holotype: 20 mm; paratypes: 20–21 mm.

Upperside. Ground colour of head, thorax and wings lilac with white irroration; abdomen cream. Antenna bipectinate, pale-brown with white scales basally along rami. Forewing elongate, pointed at apex, outer margin broadly arcuate. Costa with dark grey scaling along its entire length. Antemedial fascia dark brown, gently arcuate arising perpendicularly from costa, terminating perpendicularly midway along anal margin. Discal spot black, minute. Postmedial fascia dark brown, almost straight from two-thirds of the way along costa to tornus. Fringe dark grey. Hindwing elongate tornally, outer margin arcuate and gently crenulate. Postmedial fascia dark brown, straight arising almost perpendicularly from two-thirds of the way along costa to three-quarters of the way along anal margin. Anal fold with long creamy-white scales. Fringe dark grey. Underside. Ground colour of head, thorax and abdomen greyish-lilac, legs darker. Wings as on upperside but greyer. Forewing discal spot absent. Postmedial fascia more diffuse, becoming poorly-defined towards anal margin.

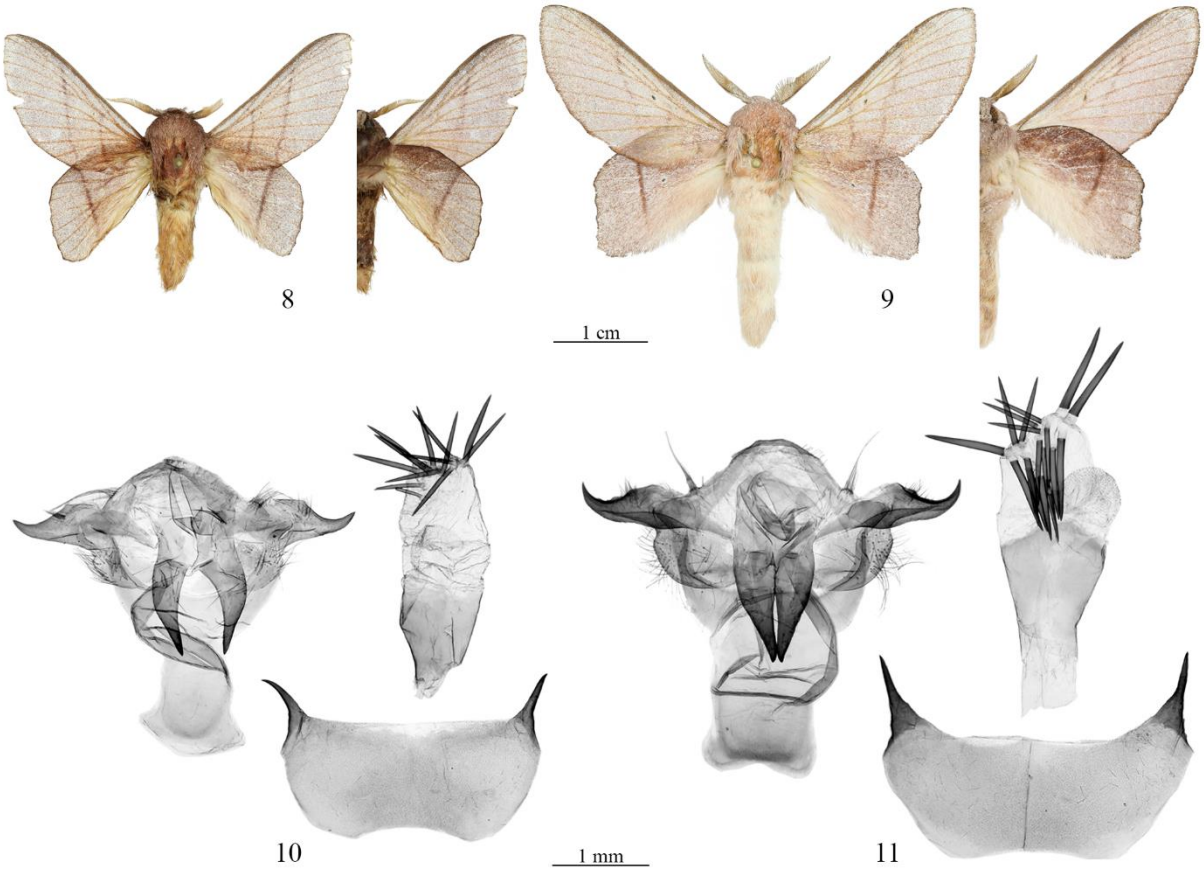
Male genitalia. Tegumen very short, arcuate; lateral process small with long setae. Valve triangular, dorsal margin angled medially, distally hooked dorsad. Juxta with a pair of elongate-triangular lobes, gently curved ventrad and apically pointed. Saccus parallel-sided, produced posterolaterally. Phallus very short, tightly attached to juxta; sclerotised section of phallus expanded distally. Vesica twice as long as phallus, with ca. 11–13 long, robust cornuti distally. Diverticulum small, spherical with scobinate surface. Eighth sternite trapezoidal, laterally arcuate, proximally concave, distally straight with two long and thin diverging laterodistal processes.

Female unknown.

Diagnosis. *Sonitha smithi* is very similar to *S. lila* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010 (Fig. 9) but the latter is larger in size and the forewing is more elongate. In the male genitalia of *S. lila* (Fig. 11), the valves are claw-like and sharply hooked at the apices, the dorsal margin of the valves are medially erose, the sacculus is wider, the juxtal lobes are broader and the saccus is weakly bilobed caudally. Additionally, the vesica is as long as the sclerotised section of the phallus, the cornuti are longer and more robust, and the laterodistal processes of the eighth sternite are more robust, longer and with weak serrations laterally. As these two species are distributed allopatrically, there is unlikely to be any confusion in specimens with good provenance.

Derivatio nominis. It is with great pleasure that this new species is dedicated to Richard Smith, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, ANHRT, for his immense contribution to our knowledge of the entomological fauna of Africa.

Distribution. This species is known only from the Fouta Djallon region of Guinea and the Nimba Mountains in Liberia, and is almost certainly the western vicariant of *S. lila* which is known from D.R. Congo, Malawi, Zambia (Zolotuhin & Prozorov 2010) and Angola (Tejuoso *et al*. 2024).



Figures 8–11. *Sonitha* species (♂). 8. *S. smithi* sp. n., holotype. 9. *S. lila* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010, Zambia, Hillwood [ANHRTUK 00340024]. 10. *S. smithi* sp. n., holotype, genitalia [HT 004]. 11. *S. lila*, genitalia [HT 007].

***Sonitha bryoniae* sp. n.**
https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0A62A53F-EE2A-414C-BBF7-0FBA52959317
(Figs 12, 16)

Holotype ♂ (ANHRT):
"LIBERIA 103m / Sinoe County, 6.5km NW / of Jacksonville, Forest near / Solve Problem Village / 5°26'25"N, 9°7'39.9"W / 23-27.i.2018 MV Light Trap / Geiser, M., Sáfián, Sz., / Simonics, G. Leg. / ANHRT:2017.33 // ANHRTUK / 00090316"

Description.
Forewing length: holotype: 20 mm.

Upperside. Ground colour of head and thorax brown, patagia darker anteriorly; abdomen yellow (although difficult to ascertain due to the grease). Antenna bipectinate, dark khaki. Forewing elongate, pointed at apex, outer margin broadly arcuate. Ground colour pinkish-brown, turning pale yellow from space CuA2 to the anal margin. Costa dark brown along its entire length. Discal spot black, minute. Terminal area darker. Fringe brown, turning yellow from vein CuA1 towards tornus. Hindwing elongate tornally, outer margin angled at vein M3 and slightly concave to tornal angle. Ground colour chocolate-

brown, becoming darker medially; marginal area heavily irrorated with silvery-grey scales. Fringe brown.

Underside. Ground colour of head, thorax and abdomen dark brown. Wings as on the upperside but darker. Forewing with a slight expansion anteriorly of the pale yellow patch; discal spot absent. Hindwing with indistinct postmedial fascia, bilineate, charcoal and arcuate.

Male genitalia. Tegumen arcuate; lateral process small with short setae. Valve very short triangular, tapered medially, apically curved dorsad, rounded at apex. Juxta with a pair of robust lobes, curved ventrad, distally tapered and apically pointed. Saccus diverging caudally, produced posterolaterally. Phallus short, tightly attached to juxta; sclerotised section of phallus narrower distally. Vesica bilobate with a long, robust cornutus at the apex of each lobe. Eighth sternite trapezoidal, elongate longitudinally, laterally arcuate, proximal and distal margins concave, the latter with two long laterodistal processes.

Female unknown.

Diagnosis. *Sonitha bryoniae* is similar in appearance to *S. bernardii* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010 (Fig. 13) but the latter displays bilineate antemedial and postmedial fasciae on the forewing upperside, much weaker but nonetheless visible on the underside, and the extent of the pale yellow patch on the forewing underside is far greater. In the male genitalia of *S. bernardii* (Fig. 17), the apices of the valves are more hooked and sharply pointed, the juxtal lobes are shorter and wider medially, the posterolateral projections of the saccus are longer, the vesica bears ca. 20 cornuti medially and the laterodistal processes of the eighth sternite are more robust and wider basally. As these two species are distributed allopatrically, there is unlikely to be any confusion in specimens with good provenance.

Derivatio nominis. It is with great pleasure that this new species is dedicated to Bryony Blades, ANHRT, who initially sorted through the *Sonitha* specimens in the ANHRT collections and identified the surplus of morphospecies to names.

Distribution. This species is known only from the single holotype from lowland Liberia and is almost certainly a western vicariant of *S. bernardii* which is known from Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, D.R. Congo (Zolotuhin & Prozorov 2010) and Republic of Congo (Figs 13, 17).

***Sonitha laszloi* sp. n.**

https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:205433CF-F430-4265-8CE9-EF22D46254D5

(Figs. 14, 18)

Holotype ♂ (ANHRT):

"GUINEA 435m / Geipa Camp, Forêt de Diecké / 7°26'7.06"N, 8°50'47.87"W / 5-14.iv.2019 Light Trap / Blended Bulb (250W) / Sáfián, Sz., Koivagui, S. Leg. / ANHRT:2019.7 // ANHRTUK / 00129142"

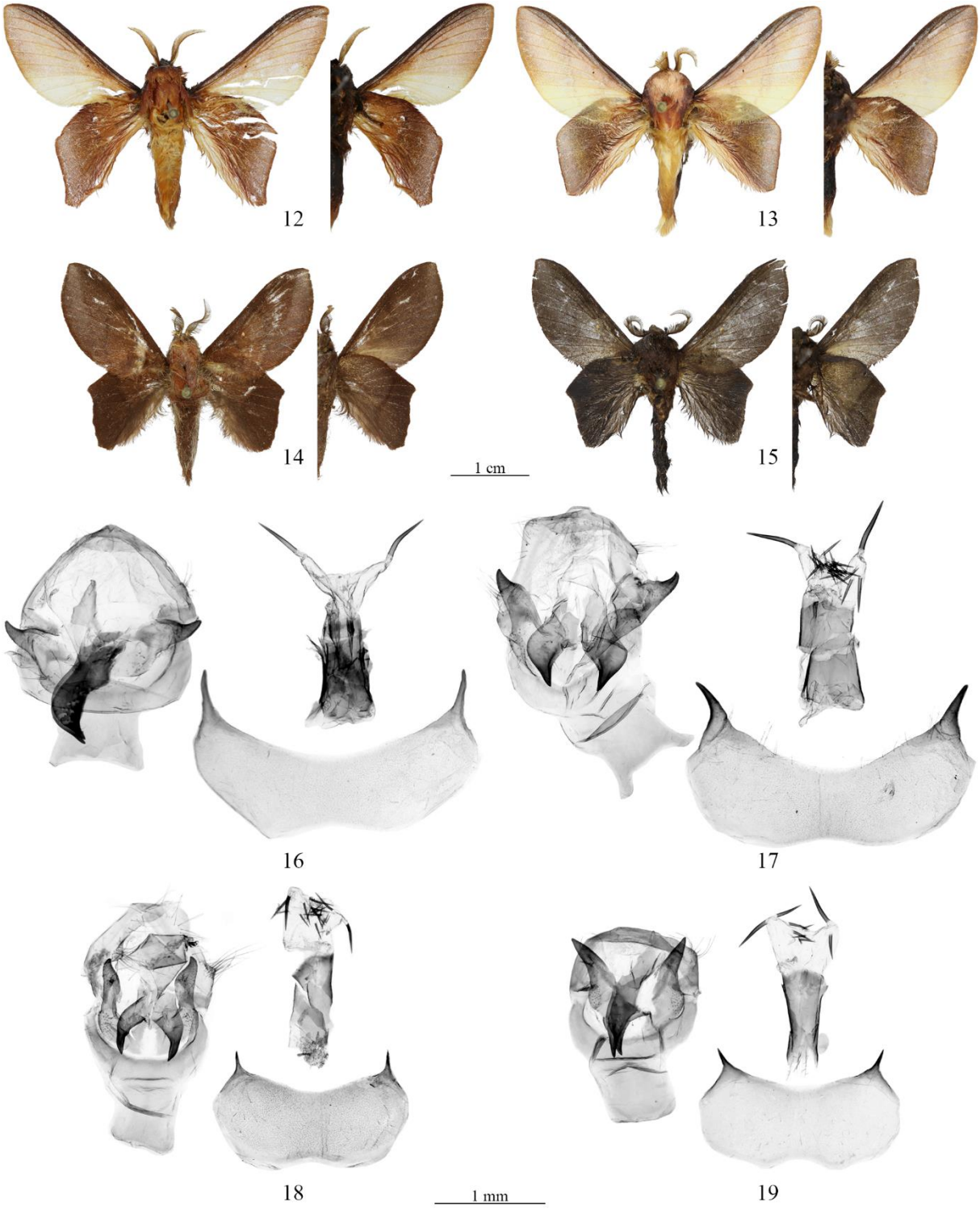
Paratype ♂:

GUINEA: same data as holotype (1♂ ANHRT).

Description

Forewing length: holotype: 18 mm; paratype: 17 mm.

Upperside. Ground colour of head, patagia and tegulae chocolate-brown, metathorax rusty-brown; abdomen dark brown. Antenna bipectinate, dark khaki. Forewing elongate pointed at apex, outer margin broadly arcuate. Ground colour chocolaty-brown with a slight russet tint in the paratype. Antemedial fascia charcoal, arcuate, arising perpendicularly from costa, terminating perpendicularly midway along anal margin. Discal spot small, pale yellow consisting of a cluster of longer scales. Postmedial fascia charcoal, arcuate, slightly crenulate arising perpendicularly from costa, terminating near tornus. Marginal area delimited by a straight line running broadly from apex to tornus, silvery-grey becoming less apparent posteriorly. Fringe short, chocolaty-brown. Hindwing elongate tornally, outer margin produced and sharply angled in space M2, straight and slightly crenulate to tornal angle. Ground colour dark brown. Postmedial fascia charcoal, gently arcuate, poorly-defined becoming indistinct towards anal fold. Fringe short, dark brown.



Figures 12–19. *Sonitha* species (♂). 12. *S. bryoniae* sp. n., holotype. 13. *S. bernardii* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010, Republic of Congo, Nouabalé-Ndoki NP [ANHRTUK 00329746]. 14. *S. laszloi* sp. n., holotype. 15. *S. alucard* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010, Republic of Congo, Nouabalé-Ndoki NP [ANHRTUK 00315096]. 16. *S. bryoniae* sp. n., holotype, genitalia [HT 003]. 17. *S. bernardii*, genitalia [HT 002]. 18. *S. laszloi* sp. n., holotype, genitalia [HT 009]. 19. *S. alucard*, genitalia [HT 005].

Underside. Ground colour of head and legs chocolaty-brown; thorax, wings and abdomen dark brown. Forewing with long pale yellow scales basally and posteriorly. Postmedial fascia charcoal, oblique and becoming indistinct towards anal margin. Marginal area as on upperside but colouration less contrasting.

Hindwing postmedial fascia, charcoal, as on upperside. Veins well-defined with fine long pale yellow scales, particularly in the holotype.

Male genitalia. Tegumen short, arcuate; lateral process small, angular with long setae. Valve digitiform, apically curved dorsad, and tapering to a rounded apex. Juxta with a pair of long lobes, gradually tapered, medially curved, and apically pointed. Saccus almost parallel-sided. Phallus short, tightly attached to juxta. Vesica weakly bilobate with two long cornuti at the apex of each lobe, and ca. 20 smaller cornuti in between lobes. Eighth sternite trapezoidal, elongate longitudinally, laterally arcuate, with concave proximal and distal margins, the latter with two short laterodistal processes.

Female unknown.

Diagnosis. *Sonitha laszloi* is most similar to *S. alucard* Prozorov & Zolotuhin, 2010 (Fig. 15) sharing with it the pale forewing discal spot, but in the latter, the ground colour of the wings is dark greyish-brown, the forewing is narrower with a less arcuate outer margin, the paler forewing marginal band is weakly expressed, and the hindwing outer margin between vein M2 and the tornus is straight lacking any sinuation. In the male genitalia of *S. alucard* (Fig. 19), the valves are longer and elongate triangular in shape, the juxtal lobes are wider medially, the vesica bears ca. 6-7 cornuti medially and the laterodistal processes of the eighth sternite are more divergent. As these two species are distributed allopatrically, there is unlikely to be any confusion in specimens with good provenance.

Derivatio nominis. It is with great pleasure that this new species is dedicated to Gyula László, ANHRT, a specialist of the Nolinae, Geometridae and Notodontidae, for many a helpful discussion regarding Lepidoptera taxonomy and systematics over the years.

Distribution. This species is known from only two specimens both collected in Diecké Forest, Guinea and is believed to be restricted to the Liberian subregion of the Upper Guinean Forest block. Its sibling taxon, *S. alucard* is known from Central African Republic, D.R. Congo (Prozorov *et al*. 2023) and Republic of Congo (Figs 15, 19).

Species content of the genus *Sonitha* Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010

Sonitha libera (Aurivillius, 1914)
Sonitha chocolatina Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha myoctona Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha bernardii Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha bryoniae **sp. n.**
Sonitha gelata Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha picassoi Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha lapa Prozorov, 2016
Sonitha alucard Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha sophia Prozorov, Mckenzie, Prozorova, Saldaitis, Sulak, Volkova, Revay, Yakovlev & Müller, 2023
Sonitha sara Prozorov, Mckenzie, Prozorova, Saldaitis, Sulak, Volkova, Revay, Yakovlev & Müller, 2023
Sonitha laszloi **sp. n.**
Sonitha lila Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010
Sonitha smithi **sp. n.**
Sontiha adetoun Tejuoso, Friend, Prozorov, Yakovlev, Saldaitis, Prozorova, Sulak, Volkova, Murphy, Revay & Müller, 2024
Sonitha integra Zolotuhin & Prozorov, 2010

Conclusions

Investigations into the *Sonitha* specimens held in the ANHRT collections that could not be confidently assigned to any of the known species resulted in the discovery of three new taxa, raising the total number of species in the genus to 16. The genitalia and the eighth sternite of *Sonitha* species are characterful despite previous misinterpretations of variation, and through its stability, two poorly-defined and previously confused taxa, *S. libera* and *S. chocolatina* have now been clearly delimited. All three of the new species described above originate from West Africa and are likely to be restricted to the Upper Guinean Forest block, a well-known area of high endemism. There are numerous examples of forest-dwelling Lepidopteran species having diverged across the Dahomey Gap (e.g., Takano 2021), an area of forest-savanna mosaic, and much like the geographic circumscriptions of *S. libera* and *S. chocolatina*, other studies in the Lasiocampidae have unsurprisingly revealed similar patterns of allopatric vicariance (e.g., Takano & László 2022). Continued research into the West African fauna, of which the ANHRT has particularly rich holdings, will undoubtedly reveal further interesting and undescribed taxa.

Acknowledgements

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