

New and interesting Lepidoptera records from Chechen Republic (Russia)

Новые и интересные находки чешуекрылых (Lepidoptera) в Чеченской Республике (Россия)

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Ключевые слова: Lepidoptera, Crambidae, Noctuidae, Россия, Кавказ, Чеченская Республика, фаунистика.

Abstract. Faunistically interesting records of Lepidoptera from Chechen Republic (Russia) are presented. Two species of Crambidae are reported as new to European part of Russia, 2 species – as new to the Eastern Caucasus. Current occurrence in the republic is confirmed for 1 species of Noctuidae.

Резюме. Публикуются фаунистически интересные сведения о находках чешуекрылых в Чеченской Республике. Два вида огневок впервые приводятся для европейской части России, 2 вида – впервые для Восточного Кавказа. Нахождение одного вида совки на территории республики подтверждается современным материалом.

Recently, a number of photographs of Lepidoptera taken in 2012 and 2013 in Grozny city by the second author were placed on a Russian entomological internet-forum (<http://molbiol.ru/forums/index.php?showtopic=133596>) for identification or confirmation of identification. The first author recognized several of them as new or interesting for the region, therefore we publish the faunistic data on them in this communication.

Material and methods

All specimens were photographed by S.Z. Karayeva either at an artificial light source at night or on the spot when found by day. Although none were collected, all of the species in question are easily identifiable from photographs.

Classification generally follows “Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Russia” [Katalog..., 2008], with minor differences. Species new to the Eastern Caucasus are marked with an asterisk (*), those new to European part of Russia (including the Northern Caucasus) are marked with a double asterisk (**).

Family Crambidae

Calamotropha aureliella (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1841)*
(Color plate 7: fig. 1)

Record. Russia, Chechen Republic, Grozny, 3.07.2013, 1 specimen, to light.

Distribution. In the Catalogue this amphipalaearctic species was only recorded in Russia from south of the Far East (Amurland and Primorie (= Ussuriland)) [Sinev, 2008], although it was known from many European countries, including as close to Russia as Sumy Region of Ukraine [Govorun, 2003]. Recently it was found in Krasnodar Province as new to the Western Caucasus and European Russia [Shchurov, Lagoshina, 2013]. New to the Eastern Caucasus.

Achyra nudalis (Hübner, 1796)*
(Color plate 7: fig. 2)

Record. Russia, Chechen Republic, Grozny, 15.08.2013, 1 specimen, to light.

Distribution. This species, generally distributed from Southern Europe and Africa through the Middle East to India and Mongolia, was only known in Russia from Astrakhan' Region in the Lower Volga [Zolotuhin, 2005]. New to the Eastern Caucasus; probably distributed wider than currently assumed and should be looked for in all neighbouring territories.

Spoladea recurvalis (Fabricius, 1775)**
(Color plate 7: fig. 3)

Record. Russia, Chechen Republic, Grozny, 19.10.2012, 1 specimen, by day; 20.10.2012, 1 specimen to light.

Distribution. Until now this cosmopolitan species was known in Russia only from south of the Far East (Amurland, Primorie, Sakhalin and Southern Kuriles) [Sinev, 2008]. Resident of subtropics and tropics, it is regularly reported from temperate latitudes as a migrant, northernmost records in Europe are from Britain, Denmark, Hungary and the Crimea [Slamka, 2013]. New to European Russia.

Cydalima perspectalis (Walker, 1859)**
(Color plate 7: fig. 4)

Record. Russia, Chechen Republic, Grozny, 6.09.2013, 3 specimens, by day, and several more seen in consecutive days.

Distribution. An Eastern Asian species, which, until

now, has been recorded in Russia from Primorie only [Sinev, 2008]. In Europe known since 2006, when it was accidentally introduced to Germany; since then it has spread through much of Europe, where it is now considered a pest of wild and cultivated species of box (*Buxus* spp., Buxaceae). In 2011 it has reached European part of Turkey (Istanbul) [Hizal et al., 2011]. New to European Russia.

Apart from our record, the species has been noted in Krasnodar Province [V.I. Shchurov, pers. comm.; <http://czl23.ru/news.php?extend.102>]. The quick spreading of this species is apparently assisted by man, since its foodplants are widely cultivated.

Family Noctuidae

Haemerosia vassilini A. Bang-Haas, 1912

(Color plate 7: figs 5, 6)

Record. Russia, Chechen Republic, Grozny, 15 and 24.06.2012, 2 specimens, to light.

Distribution. This local and rare species, known from Bulgaria, Greece, the Crimea, the Caucasus, Turkey and Iran, was recently recorded in Russia from Krasnodar Province and Dagestan Republic; from Chechen Republic only one old record (Naurskaya) was known [Poltavsky et al., 2009]. Its occurrence in the republic is now confirmed.

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Figs 1–6. Crambidae and Noctuidae representatives, Grozny, Chechen Republic, Russia (photos by S.Z. Karayeva).
Рис. 1–6. Представители семейств Crambidae и Noctuidae, Грозный, Чеченская Республика, Россия (фотографии С.З. Караевой).
1 – *Calamotropha aureliella*, 3.07.2013; 2 – *Achyra nudalis*, 15.08.2013; 3 – *Spoladea recurvalis*, 20.10.2012; 4 – *Cydalima perspectalis*, 6.10.2013; 5, 6 – *Haemerosia vassilini*, 14.06.2012.