

## Correspondence

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**R. V. Yakovlev<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Th. J. Witt<sup>3</sup>. CARPENTER-MOTHS (LEPIDOPTERA: COSSIDAE) OF SWAZILAND, SOUTH AFRICA. – Far Eastern Entomologist. 2016. N 311: 9-12.**

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**Summary.** An annotated list of seven species of Cossidae (Lepidoptera) of the Swaziland fauna is given. Five species are recorded from Swaziland for the first time.

**Key words:** Lepidoptera, Cossidae, carpenter-moths, fauna, Swaziland, Africa.

**Р. В. Яковлев, Т. Витт. Древоточцы (Lepidoptera: Cossidae) Свазиленда, Южная Африка // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2016. N 311. С. 9-12.**

**Резюме.** Приводится аннотированный список 7 видов семейства Cossidae (Lepidoptera) фауны Свазиленда, из которых 5 видов приводятся впервые для этой страны.

## INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Swaziland is a small country (area of 17363 km<sup>2</sup>) in South Africa, bordering with the Republic of South Africa in the North, West and South and with Mozambique in the East. The country lies on the Veld Plateau, which decreases stepwise from the West to the East. The highest peak is Emlembe Mt. (1862 m). The climate is transitional from subtropical to tropical, the average monthly temperature is from 12–15°C to 20–24°C. The precipitation is from 500-700 mm/year in the East to 1,200-1,400 mm/year in the West. The vegetation is a typical savanna in the West, thickets of xerophytic shrubs in the East.

The Cossidae of Africa are still poorly studied. Only a few publications of the recent years are devoted to the systematics and faunistics of African Cossidae (Yakovlev & Lenz, 2013; Yakovlev & Murphey, 2013; Yakovlev, 2014, 2015; Mey, 2015). In many areas the faunal data are still completely absent.

Swaziland is no exception, as there is a total lack of data on it, but for the description of *Aethalopteryx rudloffi* Yakovlev, 2011 from Swaziland, Ndzevane area, Matala near Nsogo, 240 m, Akazien, Agaven Buscland, S 26°58'; E031°58'. *Aethalopteryx obsolete* (Gaede, 1930) was reported for Swaziland with no indication of the exact localities (Yakovlev, 2011).

Due to the expeditions of the German entomologist J.P. Rudloff in 2007 and the Russian entomologists V.N. Kovtunovich and P.Ya. Ustuzhanin in 2009 and 2011 the first data on the Swaziland Cossidae fauna have been received. All specimens were collected at light sources. Almost all specimens examined are deposited in the collection of R.V. Yakovlev (Barnaul, Russia) except holotype and paratypes of *Aethalopteryx rudloffi* Yakovlev, 2011 which are stored in the Museum Witt (München, Germany). List of species is given below.

## AN ANNOTATED LIST OF CARPENTER-MOTHS SPECIES OF SWAZILAND

### ***Macrocoossus toluinus* (Druce, 1887)**

*Cossus toluinus* Druce, 1887: 684–685 (holotype – male, Gambia; in British Museum of Natural History, London).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland**: Mlawula N.R., 26°12'37" S, 32°00'04" E, 150 m, 14–15.X 2009, 1 ♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin.

DISTRIBUTION. Africa from the Gambia and Ivory Coast to Malawi, Tanzania, Namibia, and Republic of South Africa (Schoorl, 1990; Vári *et al.*, 2002; Yakovlev, 2011).

### ***Strigocossus crassus* (Drury, 1782)**

*Phalaena (Noctua) crassa* Drury, 1782: Pl. 2: fig. 1 (type material is lost?, Sierra Leon [Sierra Leone])

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland**: Mlawula N.R., 26°12'37" S, 32°00'04" E, 150 m, 14–15.X 2009, 1 ♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin.

DISTRIBUTION. Central and Southern Africa (Schoorl, 1990; Yakovlev, 2011).

### ***Aethalopteryx obscurascens* (Gaede, 1930)**

*Xyleutes obscurascens* Gaede, 1930: 547. (holotype – male, Maraquo, Centr. Abyss. [Central Ethiopia]; in British Museum of Natural History, London)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland**: Mlawula N.R., 26°12'37" S, 32°00'04" E, 150 m, 06.XII 2011, 4 ♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin.

DISTRIBUTION. East Africa (from Ethiopia to Malawi) and South Africa (Yakovlev, 2011).

### ***Aethalopteryx rudloffi* Yakovlev, 2011**

*Aethalopteryx rudloffi* Yakovlev, 2011: 81 (holotype – male, Swaziland, Ndzevane area, Matala near Nsogo, Akazien, Agaven Buscland; in Museum Witt, München).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland**: Ndzevane area, Matala near Nsogo, Akazien, Agaven Buscland, 26°58' S, 031°58' E, 240 m, 23.I 2007, 3 ♂ (holotype and paratypes), leg. J.P. Rudloff.

DISTRIBUTION. Endemic to Swaziland.

### ***Aethalopteryx forsteri* (Clench, 1959)**

*Xyleutes forsteri* Clench, 1959: 14–15 (holotype – male, SW Africa, Okahandja [Namibia]; in Zoologische Sammlung der Bayerischen Staates, München).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland**: Mlawula N.R., 26°12'37" S, 32°00'04" E, 150 m, 06.XII 2011, 1 ♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin.

DISTRIBUTION. South-Western Africa (Vári *et al.*, 2002; Yakovlev, 2011).

### ***Azygophleps leopardina* Distant, 1902**

*Azygophleps leopardina* Distant, 1902: 213–214 (holotype – male, Transvaal, Pretoria; in British Museum of Natural History, London).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland:** Mlawula N.R., 26°12'37" S, 32°00'04" E, 150 m, 14–15.X 2009, 1 ♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin; Malolotja N.R., 26°08'25" S, 31°08'10" E, 1530 m, 13.X 2009, 2 ♂♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin.

DISTRIBUTION. Zambia, Namibia, Kenya, Republic of South Africa (Pinhey, 1979; Yakovlev, 2011).

### ***Azygophleps inclusa* (Walker, 1856)**

*Zeuzera inclusa* Walker, 1856: 1534 (holotype – female, Port Natal [Durban, South Africa]; in British Museum of Natural History, London)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Swaziland:** Malolotja N.R., 26°08'25" S, 31°08'10" E, 1530 m, 13.X 2009, 1 ♂, leg. V. Kovtunovich & P. Ustjuzhanin.

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Arabian Peninsula to South Africa (Pinhey, 1979; Vári *et al.*, 2002; Yakovlev, 2011).

## **DISCUSSION**

Thus, seven Cossidae species are reported for the fauna of Swaziland, which is about 50% of the expected amount of fauna. One species (*Aethalopteryx rudloffii*) is endemic to Swaziland. Perhaps in the further study of Cossidae of South Africa this species will be discovered in the neighboring areas of RSA and Mozambique. The other species are widely spread in the South and South-East of Africa.

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