



NEW RECORDS OF TWO SPECIES OF FAMILY ARCTIIDAE (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM WESTERN GHATS OF INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Majority of the arctiid moths can be studied under two subfamilies i.e., Arctiinae and Lithosiinae and the members of this group are of much economic importance. They can be identified from the meta thoracic tymbal organ, a pre-spiracular counter tympanal hood and a pair of pheromonal glands between the ovipositor lobes. Arctiid moths are an integral and complex part of our ecosystem and play a vital role in its functioning. Therefore, knowledge about the distributional limits and ecological relationship of these insects is a practical necessity. Recently Kirti *et al.*, 2010, reported *Cyclomilta melanolepia* (Dudgeon) for the first time from Western Ghats of India. In this manuscript two more species i.e. *Pseudoblabe oophora* Zeller and *Micraloa lineola* (Fabricius) have been included which were collected for the first time from Western Ghats of India. Before this, these species were never been reported from the western ghats of India. The collections were made with the help of light traps during night time and the collected samples were treated and preserved as per techniques in lepidopterology. Identification was done with the help of relevant literature (Hampson 1894, 1901). The identification was also confirmed by comparison of the species under reference with the identified collections of Natural History Museum (NHM), London, personally by the first author.

OBSERVATIONS

Pseudoblabe oophora Zeller

Pseudoblabe oophora Zeller, 1853, *Bull. Soc. Nat. Moscou*, 26(2) : 514.

Old distribution: India: Assam, central India; Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Java.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Karnataka : Ganeshgudi (480mtrs.), 15.xi.03 – 2 m, 14.x.05 – 1 m; Bhagamandala (900mtrs.), 24.xi.03 – 1 m; Medikeri (1100mtrs.), 13.xi.05 – 1 f.

Kerala : Vallakadava (780mtrs.), 9.ix.04 – 3 m 1 f; Vadasserikkara (30mtrs.), 7.ix.04 – 2 m 1 f. (Coll. Singh, N.)

Taxonomic note: Genus *Pseudoblabe* was proposed by Zeller in 1853 on the type species *oophora* Zeller from Java. The external male and female genitalia of the species under reference was studied by Holloway (2001). Species *oophora* Zeller can easily be identified from the general ground colour ochreous. Fore wing with a large brown patch covering whole of the middle and inner region. Hind wing with an androgonial patch. In the present studies a total number of 12 representatives of the species under reference were collected from Western Ghats of India.

Micraloa lineola (Fabricius)

Bombyx lineola Fabricius, 1793, *Ent. Syst.*, 3 (1) : 465.

Old distribution : India: Jammu and Kashmir, North-West Himalayas, Punjab and West Bengal.



Pseudoblabe oophora Zeller



Micraloa lineola (Fabricius)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Gujarat : Waghai (180mtrs.), 27.ix.05 – 2 m 1 f;
Ahwa (520mtrs.), 28.ix.05 – 8 m; Saputara (970mtrs.),
29.ix.05 – 1m 1 f.

Maharashtra : Malshej Ghat (690mtrs.), 1.x.05 –
1 f.

Karnataka : Ganeshgudi (480mtrs.), 20.vii.04 –
2 m, 21.vii.04 – 1 f.

Kerala : Agali (520mtrs.), 6.x.03 1 m. (Coll. Singh,
N.)

Taxonomic note : The species was dealt in detail
by Dubatolov (2004), in which the author has
provided a stable status to *lineola* (Fabricius) by
shifting it under a newly proposed genus *Micraloa*
Dubatolov, 2004.

SUMMARY

The present communication deals with the first
time record of two species i.e. *Pseudoblabe oophora*
Zeller and *Micraloa lineola* (Fabricius) from Western
Ghats of India.

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