TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA, 9(1): 4 (1998)

NOTE

CORYPTILUM MOTHS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (LEPIDOPTERA: TINEIDAE)

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ABSTRACT.– The Oriental tropical moth genus, *Coryptilum* (Tineidae), includes some of the most colorful tineid moths in the world. Two of the species are illustrated: one from Malaysia and one from Taiwan. Other species of the genus occur from India to the Solomon Islands. Species of the genus are day-flying, but other biological data remains unknown.

KEY WORDS: behavior, distribution, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, Oriental, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Southeast Asia, Taiwan, Tineinae.

Species of the tineid genus *Coryptilum* are brilliantly colored day-flying moths. They are currently placed in the subfamily Tineinae (Tineidae), but may belong in another subfamily (Robinson, pers. comm.). The genus has only 4 known species described from various areas, from India to the Solomon Islands. Perhaps the most well-known species is *Coryptilum klugii* Zeller (Fig. 1), from mainland Malaysia, illustrated below from Cameron Highlands. Malaysia also has the more yellow-spotted species, *Coryptilum rutilellum* (Walker) (Fig. 2), ranging north to Taiwan (Davis, 1992). Other species occur in the Philippines (*C. luteum* Diakonoff, [1968]), various islands of Indonesia, and the Solomon Islands, east of New Guinea. There may well be more species yet to be discovered.

These colorful moths are all diurnally active, typically flying at a slow pace in bright sunshine (Robinson *et al.*, 1994). In Taiwan, *C. rutilellum* has been seen by the authors as flying in daytime in lowland forest openings over secondary growth herbaceous plants and wildflowers. At one site in northern Taiwan (Taian, Miaoli Co., 600m), the moths were also taken at light but this was in proximity to their daytime flight area (day-flying moths, just as some butterflies, sometimes do come to light if aroused from a nearby nocturnal resting site). Biologies for all the species of *Coryptilum* remain unknown: elucidation of the biology and life history of any of the species of this genus would add much to our understanding of these atypical tineid moths.

Fig. 1-2. *Coryptilum* species: 1) *C. klugii* resting on leaf, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia (© 1998 G. O. Krizek). 2) *C. rutilellum*, Taiwan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks go to Dr. George O. Krizek (Washington, DC) for kindly allowing the use of the photograph of a living *C. klugii* taken in Malaysia. Gaden Robinson (Natural History Museum, London, England) kindly provided some current data on the taxonomy of *Coryptilum*.

This study is one of a series of papers on the fauna and life history of Taiwan Lepidoptera as part of the faunal survey of the Lepidoptera of Taiwan, supported in part by the National Science Council, Taipei, Republic of China, and in part through a cooperative survey project funded by the National Science Foundation, Washington, DC, USA (grants INT-8119539 and INT-8721716). The Pacific Cultural Foundation, Taipei, also has provided grants for the Taiwan Lepidoptera survey. Generous aid and help with logistics, transportation and local assistance was kindly provided by the Taiwan host institutes, the Taiwan Museum (TM), Taipei, and the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Taipei. The staffs of several of the forestry research stations of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute also provided valuable aid in this project. The Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Plant Industry (DPI), and its Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), Gainesville, provided supplies for some of the Taiwan surveys, as did the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

1. Contribution No. 865, Section of Entomology, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL.

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