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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

First data of Cossidae (Lepidoptera) of the Central African Republic

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Present paper provides the first data of Cossidae of the Central African Republic (8 species) based on the materials of the collection of the African Natural History Research Trust (Leominster), Museum Witt (Munich), and the private collection of Manfred Ströhle (Weiden). Six species (*Assegaj clenchi* Yakovlev, 2006, *Gumilevia zhiraph* Yakovlev, 2011, *Aethalopteryx squameus* (Distant, 1902), *Eulophonotus myrmeleon* Felder, 1874, *Strigocossus crassa* (Drury, 1782), and *S. elephas* Yakovlev, 2013) are found for the first time in the fauna of CAR.
Keywords: entomology; Cossidae; carpenter moths; Cossinae; Zeuzerinae; Central African Republic; new records; fauna

About 200 valid taxa of Cossidae are known from the Afrotropical Region (Yakovlev, 2011). The carpenter moths of this region have earlier been relatively poorly studied. There are, however, publications available on the carpenter moths of Zimbabwe (Yakovlev & Lenz, 2013), Malawi (Yakovlev & Murphy, 2013), Zambia (Yakovlev, 2014), and Swaziland (Yakovlev & Witt, 2016a). Mey (2015, 2016, 2017) provided a detailed revision of the South African Cossidae. Finally, descriptions of new taxa from Cameroon, Kenya, and Ethiopia have recently been published (Yakovlev & Sáfián, 2016; Yakovlev & Witt, 2017a, b). The Cossidae fauna of the Central African Republic have remained so far completely unknown. Only two species have earlier been published from this country: *Aethalopteryx grandiplaga* (Gaede, 1930) (Yakovlev, 2011) and *Pseudozeuzera biatra* (Hampson, 1910) (Yakovlev & Witt 2018).

Materials and methods

The material was examined in the collections of the African Natural History Research Trust (Leominster), Museum Witt (Munich), and private collection of Manferd Ströhle (Weiden). Images of adults were taken by the digital camera of Apple iPhone 7, illuminated in lightbox.

Abbreviations

ANHRT – African Natural History Research Trust, Leominster, UK
CAR – Central African Republic
DMP – Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (formerly Transvaal Museum), Pretoria, South Africa
NHMUK (formerly BMNH) – The Natural History Museum (formerly British Museum of Natural History), London, UK
MWM – Museum Witt, Munich, Germany
RMCA – Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium
ZMB – Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany

Results

Assegaj clenchi Yakovlev, 2006

Fig. 1
Yakovlev, 2006: 204.
Type locality: Congo, Cozala Nat. Park.
Type material (holotype) in coll. MWM, examined.

Material examined: 1 male, Central African Rep., 10 km NNE Mbäiki, N 03°56´/ E 18°00´, 445 m, 11.12.2010, leg. J. Halada (coll. Ströhle, Weiden).
Distribution: Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon (Yakovlev, 2011), CAR (new record).

Gumilevia zhiraph Yakovlev, 2011
Fig. 2
Yakovlev, 2011: 12
Type locality: [Congo], Uele, Paulis [Isiro].
Type material (holotype) in coll. RMCA, examined.
Material examined: 1 male, Central African Republic, Bangui, N 04°20´/ E 18°32´, 350 m, 20.09.2000, leg. local collector, ex coll. Th. Greifenstein (coll. MWM).
Distribution: Congo, Uganda (Yakovlev 2011), CAR (new record).

Aethalopteryx grandiplaga (Gaede, 1930)
Fig. 3
Xyleutes grandiplaga Gaede, 1930: 547.
Type locality: Kamerun, Namiong, b. Lolodorf, a. Lokunjefluss.
Type material (holotype) in coll. ZMB, examined.
Material examined: 1 male, Oubangui, Chari, Tchad, Bangui (coll. NHMUK).
Distribution: CAR, Congo, Cameroon (Yakovlev, 2011).

Aethalopteryx squameus (Distant, 1902)
Fig. 4
Duomitus squameus Distant, 1902: 213.
Type locality: Transvaal, Pretoria (S. Africa).
Type material (cotypes) in coll. NHMUK and DMP, examined.
Material examined: 1 male, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28´40.5´´/ E016°13´02.6´´, 20−23.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT); 1 male, Central African Rep., 90 km NE Nola, N 04°07´ / E 16°37´, 560 m, 5-9.12.2010, leg. J. Halada (coll. Ströhle, Weiden).
Distribution: South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, Angola, Tanzania (Pinhey, 1979; Vári et al., 2002), CAR (new record).

Pseudozeuzera biatra (Hampson, 1910)
Fig. 5
Duomitus biatra Hampson, 1910: 131-132.
Type locality: S. Nigeria, Old Calabar [Calabar city].
Type material (holotype) in coll. NHMUK, examined.
Material examined: 1 male, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28’40.5” / E016°13’02.6”, 28−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT).
Distribution: Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon, Togo, CAR, Congo, Gabon (Schoorl, 1990; Yakovlev, 2011; Yakovlev & Witt, 2018).

Eulophonotus myrmeleon Felder, 1874
Fig. 6
Eulophonotus myrmeleon Felder, 1874: pl. 82: fig. 9.
Type locality. Cape of Good Hope [South Africa].
Type material (holotype) in coll. NHMUK, examined.
Distribution. Continental part of Afrotropical Region (Pinhey 1979; Yakovlev 2011). New record for CAR.
Material examined: 1 male, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28’40.5” / E016°13’02.6”, 20−23.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT); 1 male, Central African Rep., 30 km N Nola farm, 11-14.11.2012, leg. J. Halada (coll. Ströhle, Weiden).

Strigocossus crassa (Drury, 1782)
Fig. 7
Phalaena (*Noctua*) *crassa* Drury, 1782: Pl. 2: fig. 1
Type locality. Sierra Leon [Sierra Leone].
Type material is lost.
Material examined: 28 males, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28’40.5” / E016°13’02.6”, 10−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg.; 5 males, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, bord du Lac1, N02°28’51.0” / E016°13’04.5”, 13−14.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg.; 3 males, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, plateforme azobe, 35 m, N02°28’51.0” / E016°13’04.5”, 4−5.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg.; 2 males, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, plateforme ayous,

N02°28'40.5" / E016°13'02.6", 28−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg.; 2 males, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Mboki, 24.i.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT).
Distribution: Africa (from Central to Southern Africa). New record for CAR.

Strigocossus elephas **Yakovlev, 2013**
Fig. 8
Yakovlev & Murphy 2013: 381.
Type locality: Ouganda [Uganda], Gulu distr., Ajulu.
Type material (holotype) in coll. MWM, examined.
Material examined: 4 males, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28'40.5" / E016°13'02.6", 18−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT).
Distribution. Central and Southern Africa (Yakovlev & Murphy, 2013). New record for CAR.

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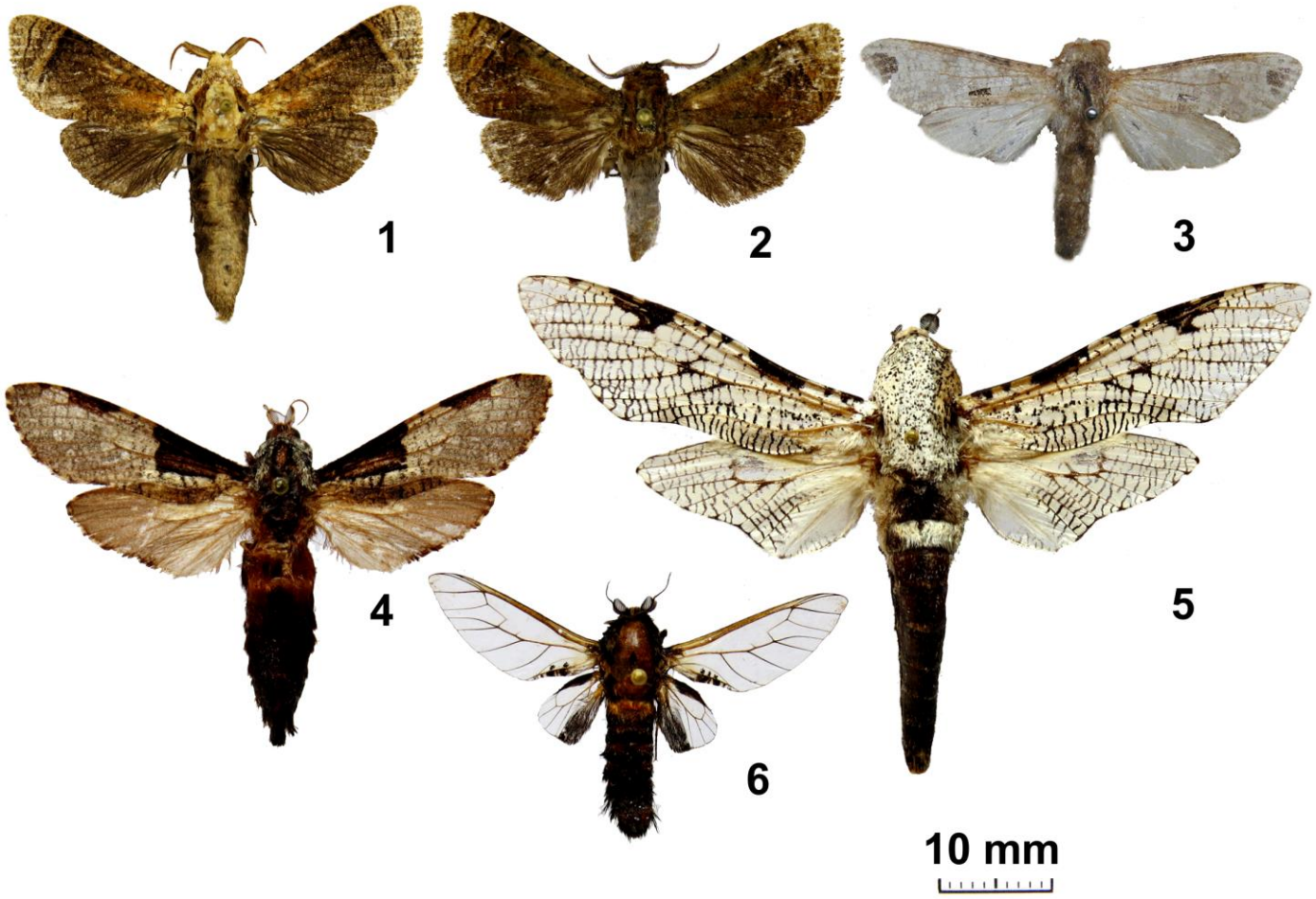

Figures 1-6. Adult Cossidae from CAR: 1. *Assegaj clenchi* Yakovlev, 2006, male, Central African Rep., 10 km NNE Mbäiki, N 03°56´/ E 18°00´, 445 m, 11.12.2010, leg. J. Halada (coll. Ströhle, Weiden); 2. *Gumilevia zhiraph* Yakovlev, 2011, male, Central African Republic, Bangui, N 04°20´/ E 18°32´, 350 m, 20.09.2000, leg. local collector, ex coll. Th. Greifenstein (coll. MWM); 3. *Aethalopteryx grandiplaga* (Gaede, 1930), male, Oubangui, Chari, Tchad, Bangui (coll. NHMUK); 4. *A. squameus* (Distant, 1902), male, Central African Rep., 90 km NE Nola, N 04°07´ / E 16°37´, 560 m, 5-9.12.2010, leg. J. Halada (coll. Ströhle, Weiden); 5. *Pseudozeuzera biatra* (Hampson, 1910), male, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28'40.5" / E016°13'02.6", 28−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT); 6. *Eulophonotus myrmeleon* Felder, 1874, male, Central African Rep., 30 km N Nola farm, 11-14.11.2012, leg. J. Halada (coll. Ströhle, Weiden).

Figures 7-8. Adult Cossidae from CAR: 7. *Strigocossus crassa* (Drury, 1782), male, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28'40.5" / E016°13'02.6", 10−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT); 8. *S. elephas* Yakovlev, 2013, male, CAR, PN de Ndoki, Lac 1, chabilis1, N02°28'40.5" / E016°13'02.6", 18−29.ii.2012, Expedition Sangha 2012, P. Moretto leg. (coll. ANHRT).

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