

Many-plumed moths of the republic of South Africa (Lepidoptera, Alucitidae)

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The present study provides a review of 26 Alucitidae species of the Republic of South Africa. 5 species are reported for the first time for the fauna of RSA. New synonymies are established for 3 species: *Alucita brachyzona* (Meyrick, 1920) is synonymized under *Alucita tesserata* (Meyrick, 1918), and *Alucita megaphimus* (Hering, 1917) and *Alucita loxoschista* (Meyrick, 1931) are synonymized under *Alucita seychellensis* (T.B. Fletcher, 1910). The type localities, general distribution in RSA and in its provinces are given.

Key words: Lepidoptera; Alucitidae; Republic of South Africa; fauna; new synonyms; new data

Introduction

There are much more data on Alucitidae of the Republic of South Africa than on the other African regions, due to the intensive study of the insect fauna including Microlepidoptera which has been carried out since the end of XIX century. The first four Alucitidae species from RAS were described in the works by Wallengren (1875), Felder & Rogenhofer (1875), Walsingham (1881). Later, in the numerous works of Edward Meyrick (1909, 1911, 1913, 1918, 1920, 1924, 1927, 1937), Fletcher (1909) and Hering (1917) two more species were described. In our work (Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich, 2011), we described 3 new species, two of them were from RSA, and the second from Zimbabwe, in the same paper 4 species were synonymized. Since the beginning of XXI century, the African Alucitidae study started again, the results were presented in publications of the authors of this article, Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich (2011, 2016a, 2016b).

Having examined the materials from Natural History Museum, UK, London and Distong National Museum of Natural History, Pretoria, South Africa (formerly Transvaal Museum), and also the collections of 10 expeditions in RAS made by the authors of the present article, we provide a list of 26 Alucitidae species, five of them are indicated for this country for the first time. These species are marked with an asterisk (*).

Annotated list of species

Subfamily **Alucitinae** Leach, 1815

Type genus: *Alucita* Linnaeus, 1758

Alucita acalyptra (Meyrick, 1913)

Orneodes acalyptra Meyrick, 1913: 269. (Type locality: Barberton, Mpumalanga, Rep. S. Africa).

Distribution. Rep. S. Africa: Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal; Malawi.

Alucita butleri Wallengren, 1875

Alucita butleri Wallengren, 1875: 130. (Type locality: Transvaal, Rep. S. Africa).

Distribution. Rep. S. Africa: Transvaal.

Alucita capensis Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875

Alucita capensis Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875: plate 140, fig. 63. (Type locality: Knysna, Western Cape, Rep. S. Africa).

Distribution. Rep. S. Africa, Malawi.

Alucita certifica (Meyrick, 1909)*Orneodes certifica* Meyrick, 1909: 4. (Type locality: Warmberg, Limpopo, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal.***Alucita crococyma*** (Meyrick, 1937)*Orneodes crococyma* Meyrick, 1937: 119. (Type locality: Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal; Malawi.****Alucita dohertyi*** (Walsingham, 1909)*Orneodes dohertyi* Walsingham, 1909: 174. (Type locality: Ibea, Kikuyu, Escarpment, Kenya).*Alucita decaryella* (Viette, 1956): 89. (Type locality: Madagascar).**Material examined.** 2 ♂, KwaZulu-Natal, Ngoya Forest, Mtunzini Distr., 19-21.iii.1968, Potgieter & Goode leg.; 2 ♂, KwaZulu-Natal, Nkandla Forest Reserve, 28°43'S 31°07'E, h 1160 m, 14-15.i.2011, Kovtunovich V. & Ustjuzhanin P. leg.; 1 ♂, Eastern Cape, Buffalo Pass, 33°05'S 27°49'E; 1 ♂, 14.iii.1980, 28.ii.1981; 1 ♀, 24.iii.1984; 1 ♂, Eastern Cape, Kubusie Forest, 32°27'S 27°53'E, 20.ii.1982, N.J. Duke leg.**Distribution.** Kenya; Uganda; Madagascar; Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape.****Alucita ectomesa*** (Hering, 1917)*Orneodes ectomesa* Hering, 1917: 190. (Type locality: N. Nyasa, Tanzania).*Orneodes myriodesma* Meyrick, 1929: 533. (Type locality: Makulane, Mozambique).**Material examined.** 1 ♀, KwaZulu-Natal, Ndumu Game Reserve, 26°54'S 32°16'E, 22.i.2009, Kovtunovich V. & Ustjuzhanin P. leg.**Distribution.** Malawi; Mozambique; Tanzania; Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal.***Alucita ferruginea*** Walsingham, 1881*Alucita ferruginea* Walsingham, 1881: 285. (Type locality: Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa.***Alucita habrophila*** (Meyrick, 1920)*Orneodes habrophila* Meyrick, 1920: 293. (Type locality: Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Limpopo; Malawi.****Alucita homotrocha*** (Meyrick, 1921)*Orneodes homotrocha* Meyrick, 1921: 108. (Type locality: Sawmills, Zimbabwe).**Material examined.** 35 ex., Eastern Cape, Sam Knott N.R., 33°01'S 26°47'E, 210m, 05-06.iii.2010, V. Kovtunovich & A. Sochivko leg.; 3 ex., KwaZulu-Natal, Ndumu Game Reserve, 26°54'S 32°16'E, 22.i.2009, Kovtunovich V. & Ustjuzhanin P. leg.; 1 ♀, Western Cape, 10 km S of Laigsburg, 15.01.2008, P. Ustjuzhanin leg.**Distribution.** Zimbabwe; Namibia; Rep. S. Africa: Eastern Cape, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal.***Alucita ithycypha*** (Meyrick, 1927)*Orneodes ithycypha* Meyrick, 1927: 373. (Type locality: Weenen, KwaZulu-Natal, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal.***Alucita libraria*** (Meyrick, 1911)*Orneodes libraria* Meyrick, 1911: 221. (Type locality: Pretoria, Gauteng, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal; Malawi.***Alucita ochriprota*** (Hering, 1917)*Orneodes ochriprota* M. Hering, 1917: 194. (Type locality: KwaZulu-Natal, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal; Malawi.***Alucita phanerarcha*** (Meyrick, 1924)*Orneodes phanerarcha* Meyrick, 1924: 96. (Type locality: Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Northern Cape; Malawi.***Alucita photaula*** (Meyrick, 1918)*Orneodes photaula* Meyrick, 1918: 54. (Type locality: Pretoria, Gauteng, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal; Malawi.****Alucita rhaptica*** (Meyrick, 1920)*Orneodes rhaptica* Meyrick, 1920: 82. (Type locality: Tanzania).**Material examined.** 59 ex., Limpopo Prov., Musina Lodge, 22°19'S 30°00'E, 570m, 13.xii.2011, V. Kovtunovich leg.**Distribution.** Tanzania; Malawi, Rep. S. Africa: Limpopo.

****Alucita seychellensis*** (T.B. Fletcher, 1910)*Orneodes seychellensis* T.B. Fletcher, 1910: 397. (Type locality: Cascade Estate, Seychelles).*Orneodes megaphimus* Hering, 1917: 191. (Type locality: Johann-Albrechtshöhe, Cameroon). **syn.nov.***Orneodes granata* Meyrick, 1921: 108. (Type locality: Magude, [Mozambique]).*Orneodes imbrifera* Meyrick, 1929: 538. (Type locality: Fort Crampel, [Central African Republic]).*Orneodes loxoschista* Meyrick, 1931: 86. (Type locality: Kampala, Uganda). **syn.nov.****Material examined.** 1 ♀, KwaZulu-Natal, Pongola G.R., 227°25'S 31°50'E, 300m, V. Kovtunovich & A. Sochivko.**Distribution.** Cameroon, Central African Republic, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Seychelles.**Notes.** Comparison of the type specimens of two species, *O. megaphimus* Hering, 1917 and *O. loxoschista* Meyrick, 1931, by the external characters of the adults, has shown their identity with *A. seychellensis* (T.B. Fletcher, 1910). Unfortunately, the abdomens of the holotypes of these two species have not been preserved.***Alucita spicifera*** (Meyrick, 1911)*Orneodes spicifera* Meyrick, 1911: 221. (Type locality: Pretoria, Gauteng, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Gauteng, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State; Malawi.***Alucita tesserata*** (Meyrick, 1918)*Orneodes tesserata* Meyrick, 1918: 34. (Type locality: Pretoria, Gauteng, Rep. S. Africa).*Alucita brachyzona* (Meyrick, 1920)*Orneodes brachyzona* Meyrick, 1920: 293. (Type locality: Abraham's Kraal, Free State, Rep. S. Africa). **syn.nov.****Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Gauteng, Free State, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal; Malawi.**Notes.** Comparison of the holotype of *A. tesserata* Meyrick, 1918 with *Alucita brachyzona* (Meyrick, 1920), has shown that *A. brachyzona* is a younger synonym to *A. tesserata*.Subfamily **Microschisminae** Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich, 2011Type genus: ***Microschismus*** Fletcher, 1909***Microschismus antennatus*** Fletcher 1909*Microschismus antennatus* Fletcher 1909: 253–254. (Type locality: Bothaville, Free State, Rep. S. Africa).*Microschismus ctenias* Meyrick, 1911: 222. (Type locality: Ngqeleni, Eastern Cape, Rep. S. Africa).*Microschismus columella* Meyrick, 1927: 373. (Type locality: Haenertsburg, Limpopo, Rep. S. Africa).*Microschismus cato* Meyrick, 1927: 374. (Type locality: Mahuba's Kloof, Limpopo, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga.***Microschismus cymatias*** Meyrick, 1918*Microschismus cymatias* Meyrick, 1918: 35. (Type locality: Pretoria, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Western Cape.***Microschismus fortis*** (Walsingham, 1881)*Alucita fortis* Walsingham, 1881: 284. (Type locality: Pretoria, Rep. S. Africa).*Microschismus serricornis* Meyrick, 1914: 187. (Type locality: Pretoria, Gauteng, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Gauteng, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal.***Microschismus premnias*** Meyrick, 1913*Microschismus premnias* Meyrick, 1913: 269. (Type locality: Three Sisters, Northern Cape, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Northern Cape, Mpumalanga.***Microschismus reginus*** Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich, 2011*Microschismus reginus* Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich, 2011: 566. (Type locality: Gladde Klipkop, Limpopo, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Limpopo, Gauteng.***Microschismus sceletias*** Meyrick, 1911*Microschismus sceletias* Meyrick, 1911: 222. (Type locality: Woodbush, Limpopo, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Limpopo, Gauteng.***Microschismus sterckfonteini*** Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich, 2011*Microschismus sterckfonteini* Ustjuzhanin & Kovtunovich, 2011: 568. (Type locality: 20 km S of Harrismith, Sterckfontein Dam, Free State, Rep. S. Africa).**Distribution.** Rep. S. Africa: Free State, KwaZulu-Natal.

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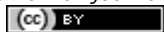
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