

## The Pterophoridae fauna of São Tomé and Príncipe (Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae)

P.Ya. Ustjuzhanin<sup>1</sup>, V.N. Kovtunovich<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Altai State University, pr. Lenina 61, Barnaul, 656049, Russia, E-mail: [petrust@mail.ru](mailto:petrust@mail.ru)

<sup>2</sup>Moscow Society of Nature Explorers, Bolshaya Nikitskaya 6, Moscow, 103009, Russia, E-mail: [vasko-69@mail.ru](mailto:vasko-69@mail.ru)

Received: 28.10.2018. Accepted: 25.11.2018

The article lists the Pterophoridae of São Tomé and Príncipe basing on literature (Gielis, 2003) and new materials. 8 plume moths species have been revealed, 4 of them have never been indicated for the country before. For all the species, the type localities are presented, and the world distribution (with new data) is given.

**Keywords:** Lepidoptera; Pterophoridae; plume moths; São Tomé; distribution; new data

São Tomé and Príncipe is an island state located in Central Africa in the Gulf of Guinea. The nature of the islands still preserved a few tropical forests, mangroves, although economic activity has in many ways changed their appearance (Figs. 1-2). The data on plume moths of São Tomé and Príncipe in the literature is very poor. Two species, *Inferuncus infesta* and *Inferuncus toxochorda*, have been described from these islands (Meyrick, 1934). Two other species, *Platyptilia farfarella* Zeller, 1867 and *Stenoptilodes taprobanes* (Felder & Rogenhoffer, 1875) have a wide, almost universal distribution.

New materials on plume moths from São Tomé, collected by the Italian colleague Graziano Bassi, gave the possibility to supplement the species composition by 4 species previously unknown for the country fauna. As a result, the Pterophoridae fauna of the islands São Tomé and Príncipe currently includes 8 species of 7 genera.

### Materials and methods

For the species identification, the material was compared to the Pterophoridae collection funds in the Natural History Museum, UK, London and in the private collection of the authors, where the studied material is deposited.

### Annotated list of species

#### *Platyptilia farfarella* Zeller, 1867

*Platyptilus farfarellus* Zeller, 1867: 334. (Type locality: Poland).

*Platyptilia molopias* Meyrick, 1906: 135. (Type locality: Sri Lanka).

*Platyptilia petila* Yano, 1963: 851. (Type locality: Solomon Islands).

*Platyptilia periacta* Meyrick, 1910: 411. (Type locality: Cape Town, S. Africa)

*Platyptilia claripicta* Fletcher, 1910: 400. (Type locality: Seychelles).

**Distribution:** Europe, Asia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Rep. S. Africa, Swaziland, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, São Tomé, Seychelles, Nigerian, Ghana.

#### *Stenoptilodes taprobanes* (Felder & Rogenhoffer, 1875)

*Amblyptilia taprobanes* Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875: plate 140, fig. 54. (Type locality: Sri Lanka).

*Platyptilia brachymorpha* Meyrick, 1888: 240. (Type locality: India).

**Material:** 2 ex., São Tomé, Santana, 11-17.xi. 2017, 20m, 00°14'N, 06°44'E, G. Bassi.

**Distribution:** France, Spain, Portugal, Canary Islands, Libya, Finland, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Bulgaria, Greece, Crete, Cyprus, Turkey, Bhutan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, India, New Guinea, Australia, Hawai'i Islands, Tchad, São Tomé, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, U.S.A., Paraguay, Bolivia.

#### *Buckleria negotiosus* (Meyrick, 1926)

*Trichoptilus negotiosus* Meyrick, 1926: 325 (Type locality: Witte River, Wellington, S. Africa).

*Buckleria vanderwolffi* Gielis, 2008: 49 (Type locality: Tsitsikamma, Cape prov., S. Africa).

**Material:** 1 male, São Tomé, Santana, 11-17.xi. 2017, 20m, 00°14'N, 06°44'E, G. Bassi.

**Distribution:** Rep. S. Africa (De Prins & De Prins 2018), São Tomé.

**Notes.** New for São Tomé.



**Figure 1.** Biotope: São Tomé, Santana



**Figure 2.** Biotope: São Tomé, Bom Sugesso

***Bipunctiphorus dimorpha*** (Fletcher, 1910)

*Platyptilia dimorpha* Fletcher, 1910: 401. (Type locality: Seychelles).

*Platyptilia patriarcha* Meyrick, 1912: 54. (Type locality: Rep. S. Africa).

*Bipunctiphorus etiennei* Gibeaux, 1994: 57. (Type locality: Madagascar).

**Material:** 1 male, São Tomé, Bom Sugesso, 16.xi. 2017, 1200m, 00°17'N, 06°36'E, G. Bassi.

**Distribution:** Seychelles, Rep. S. Africa, Reunion Isl., Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi (De Prins & De Prins 2018), São Tomé.

**Notes.** New for São Tomé.

***Inferuncus infesta*** (Meyrick, 1934)

*Platyptilia infesta* Meyrick, 1934: 403. (Type locality: São Tomé).

**Distribution:** São Tomé (De Prins & De Prins 2018).

***Inferuncus toxochorda*** (Meyrick, 1934)

*Platyptilia toxochorda* Meyrick, 1934: 402. (Type locality: São Tomé).

*Platyptilia pentheres* Bigot, 1969: 191. (Type locality: Zaire).

**Distribution:** São Tomé, Congo, Tanzania, Ghana (De Prins & De Prins 2015).

***Exelastis pumilio*** (Zeller, 1873)

*Mimeseoptilus pumilio* Zeller, 1873: 324. (Type locality: USA).

*Marasmarcha liophanes* Meyrick, 1886: 19. (Type locality: Reunion Island).

**Material:** 1 male, 2 female, São Tomé, Santana, 11-17.xi. 2017, 20m, 00°14'N, 06°44'E, G. Bassi.

**Distribution:** Nepal, Tchad, Gambia, Tanzania, Mali, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Rep. S. Africa, Seychelles, São Tomé, Reunion Island, Madagascar, Nigeria, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, New Guinea, U.S.A., Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Suriname, Costa Rica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Mexico, Jamaica, Virgin Islands, Fatu Hiva, Guam, Palau.

**Notes.** New for São Tomé.

***Pterophorus ceraunia*** (Bigot, 1969)

*Aciptilia ceraunia* Bigot, 1969: 204. - Zaire.

**Distribution:** Cameroon, Dahomey, Zaire, Madagascar (De Prins & De Prins 2015), São Tomé.

**Material:** 1 male, São Tomé, Bom Sugesso, 16.xi. 2017, 1200m, 00°17'N, 06°36'E, G. Bassi.

**Notes.** New for São Tomé.

## Discussion

As a result of examining the material on plume moths from São Tomé, 8 species have been revealed, 4 of them are new to the fauna of the country. The territory of the São Tomé and Príncipe islands is still very poorly studied due to the rare visits of entomologists. Undoubtedly, at the arrival of additional materials, the Pterophoridae fauna of the islands may significantly increase.

## Acknowledgements

The authors express their gratitude to their colleague Dr. Graziano Bassi (Avigliana, Italy) for providing material for examination.

## References

- De Prins, J. & De Prins, W. (2018). Afromoths. An online database of Afrotropical moths species (Lepidoptera). Available from: <http://www.afromoths.net>
- Gielis, C. (2003). Pterophoroidea & Alucitoidea (Lepidoptera). *World Catalogue of Insects*, 4, 1–198. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mmnd.20030500211>
- Meyrick, E. (1934). The Percy Sladen and Godman Trusts Expedition to the Islands in the Gulf of Guinea, October 1932 March 1933. III. Micro-Lepidoptera. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (10), 14(82), 401–411.

---

### Citation:

Ustjuzhanin, P.Ya., Kovtunovich, V.N. (2018). The Pterophoridae fauna of São Tomé and Príncipe (Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae). *Ukrainian Journal of Ecology*, 8(4), 508-510.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0. License

---