

REDESCRIPTION OF *ODONTODES ALEUCA* GUENÉE (LEPIDOPTERA: EUTELIIDAE: STICTOPTERINAE) INCLUDING INTRASPECIFIC VARIATION IN WING PATTERN¹

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ABSTRACT: This study analyzes the intraspecific variations in the morphology of *Odontodes aleuca* Guenée, a complex noctuid species distributed in the Oriental region. This variation is explicit in the forewing coloring patterns. It was observed that the specimens fall under five forewing pattern groups. Despite these remarkable differences in wing pattern, no variation could be observed in their male and female genitalia.

KEY WORDS: *Odontodes aleuca*, Euteliidae, Lepidoptera, intraspecific variations, India

Genus *Odontodes* Guenée was established by Guenée (1852) with *O. aleuca* Guenée (1852) as the type species. This genus belongs to the Stictopterinae and includes five species: *O. aleuca* Guenée from the Indo-Australian region, *O. uniformis* Berio from Singapore, *O. pallidifimbria* Warren from Penang, *O. metame-laena* Hampson from New Guinea and *O. griseifusa* Wileman & West from Philippines. Hampson (1892, 1908) studied *O. aleuca* in detail and noted that it exhibits dramatic variations in forewing pattern. These variations were placed under twelve aberrations based on pattern. A recent revision of the Stictopterinae of China (Feng et al., 2011) provided a diagnostic key for *O. aleuca*, but did not explain these variations in wing pattern.

Observations on the intraspecific variations in voucher specimens at the National Pusa Collection, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India (NPC) revealed that variations in wing pattern could cause confusion in identification. The description by Hampson (1908) is mainly based on color and wing patterns and did not address the genitalic variations, necessitating a redescription presented here.

METHODS

The material includes 102 specimens collected from eight localities and housed at the National Pusa Collection, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India (NPC). Male and female genitalia studies were carried out as described by Robinson (1976) and the general terminology is after Hampson (1892) and Kitching (2003); terminology for male and female genitalia is after Klots (1970) and Kitching (2003). The abdomen was

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