

A surprising new addition to the Dutch fauna of Microlepidoptera (Oecophoridae)

by

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Some time ago the promising collector of Dutch Microlepidoptera, Dr. A. Cox, caught near Elden, a small village in the eastern Dutch province of Gelderland, a single male specimen of a small species of elegant, rather striking appearance: black, with large pale yellow spots (Fig. 1). It slightly resembled *Gelechia tesella* Hübner, but closer study and dissection of the genitalia soon revealed that the insect was an oecophorid. I did not succeed, however, in identifying it any further, in spite of the very kind help of several colleagues all over Europe and even overseas. I am greatly indebted for this help to: H. G. Amsel, Karlsruhe Museum; J. D. Bradley, Common-



Fig. 1. *Eratophyes aleatrix* gen. et spec. nov., ♂.

wealth Institute of Entomology, London; L. Gozmany, Budapest Museum; H. J. Hanne-
mann, Berlin Museum; R. W. Hodges, National Museum of Natural History, Washing-
ton, D.C.; F. Kasy, Vienna Museum; J. Klimesch, Linz a. Donau, and D. Povolny, Brno.

To Mr. J. Huisinga of Amsterdam I am obliged for the nice photograph of the speci-
men.

Arriving to the conclusion that our oecophorid must be a new species and also must
belong to a new genus, I have overcome my surprise and am describing both below,
hoping that further collecting may provide more material of this enigmatic species and
also, that we are dealing with a true new member of the Netherlands fauna, rather than
an incidental import. However, also this is not at all unlikely, as the species shows
certain features in common with some Oecophoridae from the Tropics of southern Asia.

Eratophyes gen. nov.

Head (Fig. 2), with long, closely appressed scales, slightly spreading on vertex. Ocellus
posterior, partly concealed. Proboscis developed, scaled towards base. Antenna almost

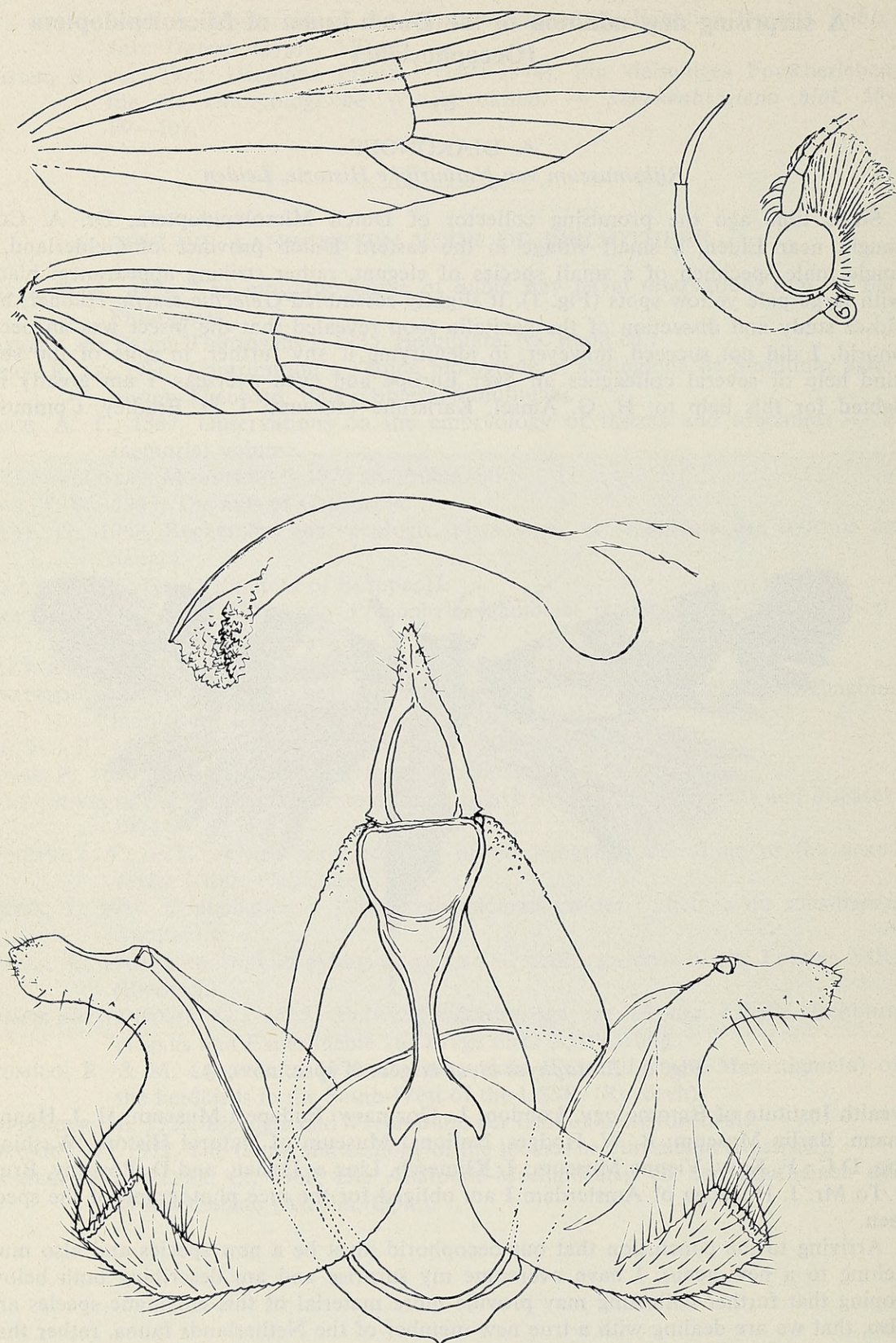


Fig. 2. *Eratophyes aleatrix* gen. et spec. nov., genitalia, ♂.

$\frac{3}{4}$, biciliate in male, ciliations over 1, scape slightly flattened, without pecten. Labial palpus long, recurved, ascending, median segment by far exceeding top of vertex, spindle-shaped, with closely appressed scales, terminal segment $\frac{1}{5}$ of median, acute. Thorax smooth. Posterior tibia with long, fine, loosely appressed hair-scales above, with shorter hairs beneath.

Fore wing (Fig. 2), broadly lanceolate, apex pointed. Vein 2 from before angle, 3 from angle, 7 and 8 stalked, approximated, 7 to costa above apex, 10 from upper angle of cell, 11 from well before middle.

Hind wing (Fig. 2), semioval, pointed, $\frac{2}{3}$ width of fore wing, cilia 1. Vein 2 from well before angle, 3 and 4 short-stalked from angle, 5 subparallel, submedian, 6 and 7 separate and parallel.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2). Tegumen truncate-triangular, rather broad. Uncus moderate, pointed. Vinculum, a large bow. Gnathos strong, with slender curved arms and a robust pending body, ending in a strong fork. Valva short, rounded, costa shaped as a laterad-directed horizontal process; sacculus rounded, its apex, a triangular, inwards-folded rigid flap. Aedeagus curved, rather long, with a moderately dilated base, top rounded, vesica large granulate-scobinate; cornuti absent.

Female unknown.

Type species, *Eratophyes aleatrix* spec. nov.

The genus is closely allied with and probably an off-shoot of *Borkhausenia* Hübner, with which it has the neururation in common. But the genitalia are so aberrant from those of any Holarctic species known, that I prefer to assign the species to a new genus.

Eratophyes aleatrix spec. nov.

♂ 14 mm (Fig. 1). Head white, suffused with pale yellow. Antenna black, white-banded on upper surface, ciliations over 1, white. Palpus black. Proboscis white. Thorax black, tegula pale yellow, convex anteriorly, shoulder black. Abdomen light glossy grey. Legs black with white bands, posterior leg light bronze-fuscous with a white upper edge and top of femur, a latero-median spot and top of tibia and apical half of tarsus.

Fore wing rather broadly lanceolate, broadest in middle, costa curved at ends, almost straight in middle, apex obtuse, termen convex, strongly oblique. Deep purplish-black with a silky gloss, markings well defined, pale yellow, narrowly edged, with more glossy pure white, except along edges of wing. A large transverse blotch at $\frac{1}{4}$, gradually dilated downwards, anterior edge moderately inwards-oblique, posterior more oblique, rather prominent and gently rounded on fold; two rounded, subquadrate large costal spots, in middle and at $\frac{3}{4}$, respectively, gently narrowed downwards and rather truncate below; a rounded-rhomboidal, slightly smaller spot on end of dorsum, opposite costal spots, but shifted slightly closer to the posterior one, rather pointed above rectangularly, above dorsum anteriorly and above this level, posteriorly. Cilia blackish-purple, with an apical white line, narrow around apex, dilated along termen.

Hind wing narrowly semioval, pointed, $\frac{2}{3}$ width of fore wing, cilia in tornus as long as the wing is broad; glossy grey, becoming grey-fuscous posteriorly, gradually strewn with darker grey (posterior halves of scales). Cilia lighter, glossy fuscous.

Male genitalia, as described with the genus above (Fig. 2).

The Netherlands, Province of Gelderland, Elden (south of Arnhem), caught along a road, 5.V.1973 (A. Cox), holotype, ♂, genitalia slide 9405. In Dr. Cox's collection.

The gaudy markings of the new species suggested the name: *aleatrix* (Latin) = player of dice. It rather resembles *Schiffermuelleria augustella* Hübner.



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