# A new genus and species of Psychidae from the Crimean Peninsula, Ukraine (Lepidoptera: Psychidae)

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**Abstract.** A new Psychidae genus, *Mauropterix* gen. nov., and a new species *Mauropterix jailensis* sp. nov. are described from the Crimean Mountains (Crimean Peninsula, Ukraine), and belong to the Epichnopteryginae Tutt, 1900, Epichnopterygini Tutt, 1900. The adult male and female, pupa, larva, and cases are described. Data on ecology and biology are also given.

Zusammenfassung. Eine neue Psychidae der Gattung Mauropterix gen. nov. und eine neue Art Mauropterix jailensis sp. nov. werden aus der Gebirgskrim (Halbinsel Krim, Ukraine) beschrieben, welche zu den Epichnopteryginae Tutt, 1900, Epichnopterygini Tutt, 1900 gehört. Die Männchen, Weibchen, Puppen, Larven and Säcke werden beschrieben und Einzelheiten zur Ökologie und Biologie mitgeteilt.

**Key words.** Lepidoptera, Psychidae, Epichnopterigidae, new genus, new species, Palaearctic Region, Ukraine, Crimea.

## Introduction

During a collecting trip in April 2006 to Ai-Petri Yaila (Crimean Mountains, Ukraine) many unknown bagworm cases with larvae and pupae were found on rocks and stones along a forest road (Fig. 1). These cases (Fig. 2) resembled those of Proutia sp. (Psychinae Tutt, 1900), but after a study of the adults of both sexes we recognized that the specimens belonged to the Epichnopteryginae Tutt, 1900 and that they differed from all known genera of this subfamily. We decided that these specimens should be described as a new genus and species. The taxonomic framework of the Psychidae is from Sauter & Hättenschwiler (1991).

## Mauropterix gen. nov.

Type species. Mauropterix jailensis sp. nov.

**Etymology.** Mauropterix is derived from "mauropteros", a Greek combination of words referring to the dark wings of the male; only for the male gender.

**Description.** Adults. Male. Wingspan 9.5–12.5 mm. Head: eyes rounded ocelli absent, labial palps short, one-segmented, directed forward, clearly visible and covered with long black hairs. Antenna

bipectinate, segments covered with scales; pectination with setae, without scales, approximately three times as long as antennomeres length (near tenth or eleventh antennomere). Thorax not strong. Wings coated with dark, simple and bidentate, spindle-shaped scales: cloaking scales long and narrow, underlying scales short and broad. Fringe of both wings with two- to four-dentate cuneiform scales. Forewing with nine veins from discal cell; main radial and medial veins very close in their basal halves; radial accessory cell absent; medial accessory cell developed; anal veins: postcubitus (pcu) short and not reaching external margin; anal veins 2 and 3 completely merged.

Hindwing with five veins from discal cell reaching external margin, without accessory cell; anal veins normally developed. Legs covered with long hairs; foretibia with relatively long epiphysis (epiphysis index approximately 0.5–0.6), its base situated in middle of tibia; midtibia with one pair of spurs, and hindtibia with two pairs; space between spurs of hindtibia approximately one third length of hindtibia. Abdomen coated with hairs. Membrane between seventh and eighth segment without thorns.

Male genitalia. Phallus long, slightly crooked; saccus long and narrow; anellus with small thorns on external side.

Female. Vermiform, body slightly crooked and weakly sclerotized. Head covered with few long and thin hairs dorsally. Eyes oval and black, largest diameter approximately 2.5 times less than space between eyes. Antenna segmented, longer than vertical diameter of eye. Thorax covered with few long and thin hairs. Legs segmented; tarsi of all legs with two segments and two claws. Wings reduced, membranous (visible only under magnification). Abdominal tergites and sternites very lightly sclerotized. Afterwool with ring-shaped structure, not closed ventrally. Ovipositor short, lightly sclerotized. Both vaginal plates present. Ostium clearly visible. Papillae anales short and broad, covered with short setae. Apophyses thin and short.

**Pupa.** Male. Head with four pairs of bristles, one close to neck. Labial palpi as long as head height (SAUTER & HÄTTENSCHWILER 1999). Abdominal segments four to eigth and intersegmental membranes 4–5, 5–6, 6–7, 7–8 dorsally with rows of thorns directed backward. Cremaster with two strong thorns on ventral side.

Female. Head plate with four pairs of bristles, one close to neck. Sheaths of antennae comparatively long. Wing sheaths clearly visible. Sheaths of legs developed and clearly visible. Abdominal segments four to seven and intersegmental membranes 4–5, 5–6, 6–7 dorsally with rows of thorns. Abdominal segment eight dorsally with swelling covered with thorns.

*Larva*. Head and thoracic segments with markings.

*Cases.* Spindle-shaped; consisting of plant fragments of different shape and size and small mineral pieces.



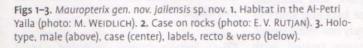


Fig. 13. Mauropterix gen. nov. jailensis sp. nov., female, ventral view (left), lateral view (right).





Diagnosis. Mauropterix gen. nov. is considered a member of the Epichnopteryginae because of the following shared characters: ovipositor short; female body slightly crooked and weakly sclerotized; male with most scales simple and spindle-shaped or hair-like on both wings; medial accessory cell of forewing developed; radial accessory cell of forewing absent; similar shape of body and wings of male.

In the Palaearctic region, the Epichnopteryginae are represented by twelve genera (see Tab. 1; DALLA TORRE & STRAND 1919; SAUTER & HÄTTENSCHWILER 1991, 1999). Within this subfamily Mauropterix gen. nov. is similar to Bijugis HEY-LAERTS, 1881, Reisseronia SIEDER, 1956, Heliopsychidea PINKER, 1956, and Montanima Sieder, 1949 in the female habitus (comparatively long antennae, segmentation of legs). From Bijugis it differs in males by the differently-shaped saccus and narrower forewings, and in the type of larval case. From Montanima it differs in males by the longer pectinations of the antennae, the absence of thorns on the membrane between abdominal segments 7 and 8, and in the differently-shaped phallus. From Reisseronia and Heliopsychidea the males differ in the longer epiphyses, the elongated and narrow saccus, phallus has other form; for females it differs by longer antennae.

### Mauropterix jailensis sp. nov.

Holotype. (Fig. 3) ♂ (with case and pupal skin) with labels: printed "Ukraina, Krym, Ms.[Montis] Aj-Petri, alt.[itudo] 1050–1100 m, 24.–25.iv.2006, E. Rutjan leg.", "ex pupa 5.v.2006"; with red label on printed form "Holotypus" (in italic) with handwritten insertion "Mauropterix jailensis Rutjan & Weidlich gen. & sp. n., ♂, Krym, Aj-Petri" (recto) and "Coll. Schmalhausen Inst. Zool., Kiev" (verso), coll. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology Kiev.

Paratypes (adults with case and pupal skin). 125 σ', 90 ♀, 226 cases; Ukraina, Krym, Ms. Aj-Petri, alt. 1050–1100 m, 24.–25.IV.2006, E. Rut-Jan leg. ex pupa; 57 σ', 28.IV., 1.–23.V.2006 and 42 ♀, 2.–21.V.2006, Crimea, Ai Petri Jaila, NW Jalta, 1050–1100 m, ex pupa; 68 σ', 48 ♀, 2.–27. V.2006, all M. Weidlich leg.; 2♀, Crimea, Ms. Aj-Petri, alt. 1200 m, 25.IV.2006, ex larva, 21.V. 2006, E. Rut-Jan leg.; 96 cases, Crimea, Ms. Aj-Petri, alt. 1050–1100 m, 24.–25.IV.2006, E. Rut-Jan leg.; 130 cases, Crimea, Ai Petri Jaila (Mountains), NW Jalta, 1050–1100 m, 24.–25. IV.2006, M. Weidlich leg. Paratypes are deposited at the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

(Kiev), Zoological Museum Humboldt-University (Berlin), Zoological Museum Taras Shevchenko National University (Kiev), Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg) and in our collections.

*Type locality.* Crimean Peninsula, Crimean mountains, Ai-Petri Yaila.

Etymology. Jaila is a Latin transliteration of a Turkic word which means "summer pasture". At the end of the 19th century, Crimean Tatars named the Crimean Mountains "Yaila", which has been adopted in English (Golovinsky 1895). In modern sense: Yaila – the top of the Main Ridge of the Crimean Mountains has the form of plateaux; it is treeless and covered with meadows or meadowsteppe vegetation (Ena & Didukh 1978).

**Description.** Adults. Male (Figs 4–12). Wingspan  $9.5-12.5 \,\text{mm}$  (m=11.4 mm, n = 30), forewing length 4.75-6.25 mm. Cuticle black. Head with black tuft of long, hair-like scales. Eye black, diameter approximately 1.65 times less than space between eyes. Labial palpus short and broad, proportion of length to width about 2:1 (Fig. 4), length approximately two times less than eye diameter. Antenna more than half length of forewing, consisting of 22-23 antennomeres (including scape and pedicel). Wings blackgrey or dark grey. Cloaking scales (Fig. 5) of class 2-4, underlying scales (Fig. 6) of class 4-6 (Sauter & Hättenschwiler 1999). Part of underlying and some of cloaking scales bidentate (class 1-2, according to SAUTER 1956). Fringe concolorous, with two to three-dentate cuneiform scales (rarely with four-dentate scales). Venation (Fig. 7) visible. External margin of medial accessory cell lightly developed. Usually with veins R3 and R4 on short pedicel. Epiphysis half as long as foretibia (Fig. 8). Mid- (Fig. 9) and hindlegs (Fig. 10) are typical for this genus. Abdomen and genital segments unicolourous, black, covered with long black hairs. Genitalia (Figs 11, 12). Length (without valvae) more than two times that of width in middle part. Phallus length (without vesica) approximately 0.65 times length of genitalia. Anellus with small thorns on external side. Saccus 2.5 times shorter than length of valva. Cucullus with numerous very short thorns on internal side. Top of sacculus with two thorns.

Female. Body length with protruded ovipositor approximately 5.0–6.5 mm. Body

colour yellow to brownish yellow (Figs 13a, 13b). Head (Figs 14a, 14b) thickly sclerotized, slightly covered with long white hair. Antenna with nine to ten antennomeres (including scape and pedicel); apical end nearly reaching middle of mesothorax. Thoracic segments dorsally more thickly sclerotized; slightly covered with long white hair. Segmentation of legs well developed. Tarsi of all legs with elongated two segments (their segmentation poorly visible). First abdominal segment dorsally more thickly sclerotized than others. Afterwool greyish white. For genitalia, see generic description and Figs 15a and 15b.

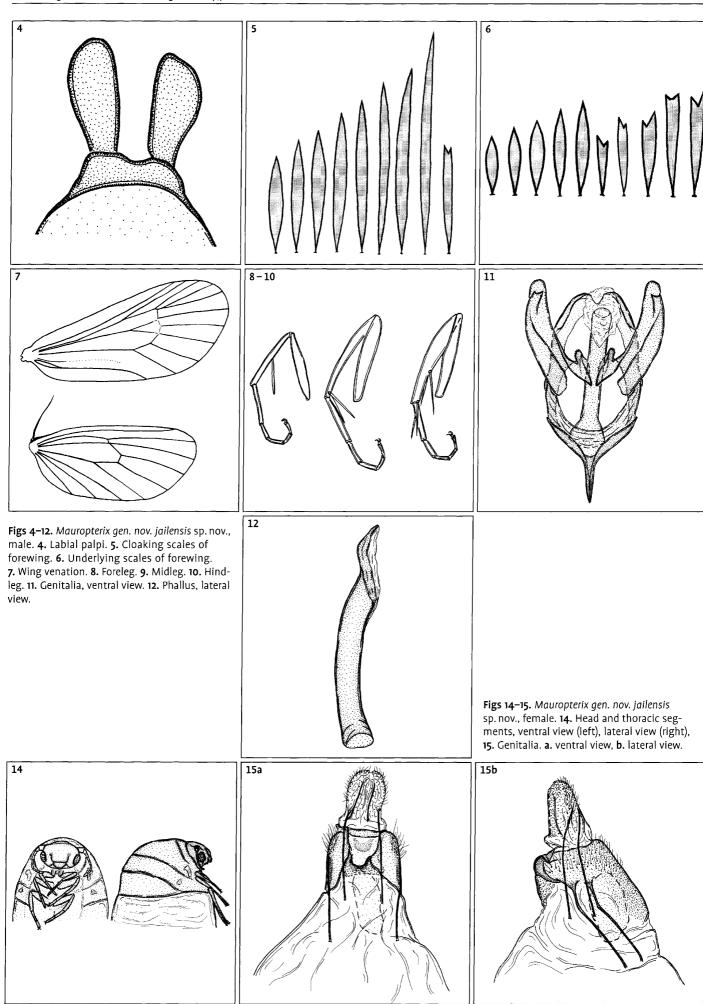
*Pupa. Male* (Figs 16, 17a, 17b, 18). Headplate width (without antennae) about twice length of labial palpi (Fig. 16). Tergite of segment four with row of 20–25 thorns, segments five and six each with row of 30–33 thorns, segment seven with row of 24–27 thorns, segment eight with row of 12–15 thorns, all directed backward (Fig. 17b). Genital segments dorsally with five pairs of setae (Fig. 18).

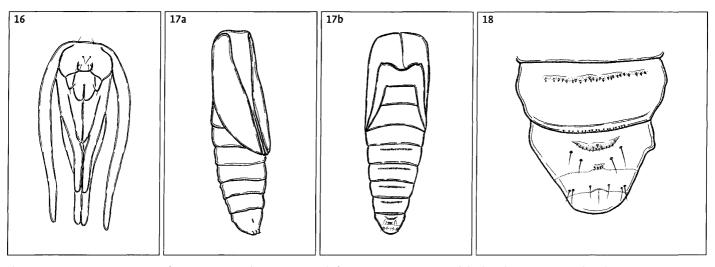
Female (Figs 19, 20a, 20b, 21). Head plate typical of genus (Fig. 19). Length of labial palpi 2.5 times less than head height. Tergite of segment four with row of 18–20 thorns, segment five with row of app. 32–34 thorns, segment six with row of 38–40 thorns, and segment seven with row of 28–31 thorns, all directed backward (Fig. 20a, 20b). Segment 8 dorsally with swelling covered with small thorns (Fig. 21).

Larva (Figs 22, 23, 24a, 24b). Body colour brownish rose. Head and thorax segments with markings (Figs 22, 23). Labrum: external side with six pairs of setae (Fig. 24a); internal side with three pairs of strong thorns (Fig. 24b).

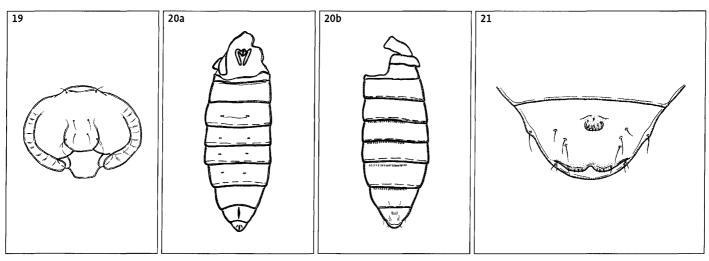
**Cases** (Fig. 2). Length 7.0–9.5 mm, diameter 2.5–3.5 mm. Consisting of plant fragments of different lengths and mineral parts. Ventrally covered with mineral pieces. Female cases broader and longer than those of males. Externally similar to those of European *Proutia* species.

Diagnosis. Mauropterix jailensis sp. nov. is compared here with the species of Epichnopteryginae occuring on the Crimean Peninsula: Bijugis bombycella ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), Reisseronia tschetverikovi Solyanikov, 1990, Psychidea alba Solyanikov, 1990, Rebelia noc-

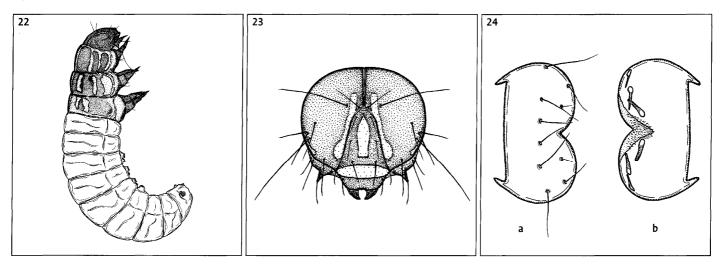




Figs 16-18. Mauropterix gen. nov. jailensis sp. nov., male pupa. 16. Head plate. 17. Exuvium, a. ventral, b. dorsal. 18. Cremaster, dorsal view.



Figs 19-21. Mauropterix gen. nov. jailensis sp. nov., female pupa. 19. Head plate. 20. Exuvium, a. ventral, b. dorsal. 21. Cremaster, dorsal view.



Figs 22–24. Mauropterix gen. nov. jailensis sp. nov., larva. 22. Total, lateral view. 23. Head. 24. Labrum, a. external side, b. internal side (all drawings: E. V. RUTJAN).

turnella (Alpheraky, 1876), Epichnopterix crimaeana Kozhantshikov, 1956 and Stichobasis helicinoides minimus Rutjan, 1998.

The following details differs the species from *M. jailensis* sp. nov. (see also Tab. 1):

Bijugis bombycella, male: wingspan 16.0–20.0 mm, wings yellow or brownish yellow, forewing broader and with pattern, saccus broad; larval cases exceptionally with grass parts.

Reisseronia tschetverikovi, male: wingspan 6.5-8.5 mm (m=7.4 mm, n=16), vena-

tion poorly visible, forewing with 8 veins from discal cell and reaching external margin, saccus extremely short, phallus short, hindtibia with only one pair of spurs, antenna with 17 segments; female: antenna short, tarsi on all legs absent; larval cases small and exceptionally with plant fragments.

Stichobasis KIRBY, 1892	Whittleia TUTT, 1900	Epichnopterix HÜBNER, 1825	Acentra Burrows, 1932	Psychidea Rambur, 1866	Psychocentra Meier, 1963	Psychidopsis Kozhantchikov, 1956	Rebelia HEYLAERTS, 1900	Montanima SIEDER, 1949	Mauropterix gen. n.	Heliopsychidea PINKER, 1956	Reisseronia SIEDER, 1956	Bijugis HEYLAERTS, 1881		
8	8	∞	9	9	6	8	9	9	9	9	∞	9	discoidal cell veins	
17-21	16–20	16-26 (usually 16-18)	19-24	20-24	16-18	21–24	19–29 (usually 20–22)	18-22	22-23	20-21	15–25 (usually 16–18)	21-25	antenna (including scape and pedicel)	
2.5-3:1	3-4:1	3-4:1	1.2-2:1	2-2.5:1	2-2.5:1	1.5:1	3-4:1	2:1	3:1	3-4:1	2-2.5:1	2-3:1	proportion length pecti- nate to segment (in middle part of antenna)	
one-dentate, spindle-shaped or hair-like/1-2-dentate, spindle-shaped or hair-like	one-dentate, hair-like/one- dentate, hair-like	1-3-dentate, hair-like or spindle-shape/one-dentate, hair-like	one-dentate, hair-like/more- dentate, cuneiform	one-dentate, hair-like or spindle-shape/more-dentate, lance-like	one-dentate, hair-like/one- dentate, hair-like	1-3-dentate, spindle-shaped or cuneiform/more-dentate, cuneiform	one-dentate, spindle-shaped or hair-like/more-dentate, lance-like	one-dentate, spindle-shaped/ long/medial more-dentate, lance-like	1–2-dentated, spindle-shaped or hair-like/2–4-dentate (usually 2–3-dentate), cuneiform	one-dentate, spindle-shaped/ short/distal one-dentate hair-like	2-dentate, cuneiform or spindle-shaped/one-dentate, hair-shaped or more-dentate, lance-like	1–3-dentate, spindle-shaped or cuneiform/more-dentate, lance-like	scales of forewing: cloaking/fringe (on apical part)	male
absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	long/proximal	long/proximal	short/medial	long/medial	long/medial	short/distal	absent or long/medial or proximal	long/medial	epiphysis & its position on tibia	
1 pair spurs	2 pair spurs	2 pair spurs	2 pair spurs (closely)	2 pair spurs (closely)	2 pair spurs (closely)	2 pair spurs (closely)	2 pair spurs	2 pair spurs (is not very closely)	2 pair spurs	2 pair spurs (closely)	1 pair spurs	2 pair spurs	hindtibia	
absent	present	present	absent	absent	present	present (light developed)	absent	absent	absent	present (light developed)	absent	present	proximal contraction of vinculum	
absent or short & width	long & width	long & width	short or very short & narrow	short & narrow	very short & narrow	short & narrow	different length & narrow	long & narrow	long & narrow	short & narrow	absent or very short & narrow	long & width	saccus	
long/slightly crooked in S. helicinoides & short/straight in ssp. mima	long/slightly crooked	long/slightly crooked	short or comparatively short/straight or slightly crooked	long/clear crooked	long/crooked	long/clear crooked	long/clear crooked	arrow long/clear crooked	long/slightly crooked	long/clear crooked	short/ straight	long/slightly crooked	phallus length/form	male
absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	present	present	present	absent	present	absent	absent	thorns on membrane 7./8. segment	
absent	absent or very short & unsegmented	absent or very short & un- segmented	very short, unsegmented	short or very short, seg- mented	unknown	undescribed	absent or very short & un- segmented	short, segmented	long, segmented	short, segmented	short or very short, seg- mented or unsegmented	short to long, segmented	antenna	fer
very reduced & unsegmented/ with one claw	short & unseg- mented/absent	absent or very short & unseg- mented/absent	very short, unsegmented/ absent	short or very short, unseg- mented/absent	unknown	undescribed	very short & unsegmented/absent	short, seg- mented/present	good developed & segmented/ present	developed & segmented/ present	different devel- oped & seg mented/present	good developed & segmented/ present	legs/claws on tarsi	female
fragments plants and mineral parts, spindle-shaped	fragments plants, present spindle-shaped	fragments plants, spindle-shaped	mineral parts, tubularform and slightly crooked	mineral parts, tubularform and slightly crooked	unknown	fragments plants and mineral parts, spindle-shaped	mineral parts, tubularform and slightly crooked	fragments plants, present spindle-shaped	fragments plants and mineral parts, spindle-shaped	fragments plants, spindle-shaped	fragments plants, spindle-shaped	fragments plants, spindle-shaped	material and shape	case
present	, present	present	absent	absent	unknown	unknown ,	absent	present	present	present (Pinker (1956))	absent	present	markings on head and thorax segments	larva

Psychidea alba, male: wingspan 11.4-14.0 mm, wings hyaline, whitish in basal part and light grey along external margin, epiphysis absent; female: legs reduced, not segmented; larva: head and thoracic segments without pattern; larval cases differently shaped and consisting only of mineral parts.

Rebelia nocturnella, male: wingspan 14.0–18.0 mm (m=15.5 mm, n=8), wings grey or light grey, epiphysis shorter (approximately 0.3 foretibia length), membrane between segments 7–8 with thorns; female: legs reduced, not segmented; larva: head and thoracic segments without pattern; larval cases differently shaped and consisting only of mineral parts.

Epichnopterix crimaeana, male: wingspan 9.0–10.0 mm, antenna with 17 antennomeres, forewings with eight veins from discal cell to external margin, genitalia with long and broad saccus; female: antenna reduced or very short, legs short, not segmented; pupa: head plate with very short labial palpi and antennal sheaths; larval cases exceptionally with grass parts.

Stichobasis helicinoides minimus, male: wingspan 8.0–9.5 mm (m=8.6 mm, n=20), labial palpus very long and ventrally directed, antenna with 17–18 antennomeres, forewings with eight veins from discal cell to external margin, hindtibia with only one pair of spurs; female: antenna only with scapus, legs short, very strong reduced, all with one claw; pupa: head plate with very short

labial palpi and antennal sheaths; larval cases are smaller in length.

Distribution and habitat. The species is known only from the southern Crimean Mountains, especially from the southern slopes of Ai-Petri Yaila at altitudes of 1050-1200 m above sea level, in the coniferous forest belt (Fig. 1). In this area, the rocks consist of limestone and sandstone and the vegetation consists of Pinus pallasiana, Pinus sylvestris var. hamata (=Pinus sosnovskyi), Carpinus orientalis, Juniperus oxycedrus, Sorbus torminalis etc. The herbaceous stratum is very poor: Carex humilis, Brachipodium rupestre, Poa sterilis, Teucrium chamaedrys, and Galium mollugo. The rock surfaces are covered with lichens, algae, and mosses. On the northern slopes of Ai-Petri Yaila this species was not found.

Life history. Univoltine. The larva hibernates on the last or penultimate stage. The adults can be found from the end of April to the end of May or perhaps to early June. In laboratory conditions males emerged approximately between 16:00 and 18:00 and females, approximately between 17:00 and 19:00. In the same habitats the psychids *Reisseronia tschetverikovi* Solyanikov, 1990 and *Apterona helicoidella* (Vallot, 1827) (parthenogenetic form), and the tineid *Eudarcia* sp. also occur.

Acknowledgements. We wish to express our gratitude to A. V. Bidzilya and Yu. I. Budashkin for the critical comments on the manuscript, linguistic corrections, and various help during our work.

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