

***Pseudognathobotys*, new genus with two new species
of Pyraustinae
(Lepidoptera Pyraloidea Crambidae)**

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Summary

A new genus *Pseudognathobotys* is described for two new species, *P. africalis* and *P. diffusalis* from the Afrotropical region. The genus takes a special place among the Pyraustinae because of the presence of a strongly developed pseudognathos.

Keywords : *Pseudognathobotys* gen.n., *P. africalis* sp. n., *P. diffusalis* sp. n., Pyraustinae, Afrotropical region.

Samenvatting

Een nieuw genus *Pseudognathobotys* wordt hier beschreven met twee nieuwe soorten : *P. africalis* en *P. diffusalis*, beide van Afrika. Omwille van de sterk ontwikkelde pseudognathos neemt dit genus een speciale plaats in de systematiek van de Pyraustinae.

Introduction

A new genus, *Pseudognathobotys*, is here described from specimens from the afrotropical region. It takes a remarkable place in the Pyraustinae because of the presence of a strongly developed pseudognathos (MAES, 1998) in the male genitalia. The pseudognathos is usually poorly developed or absent in most Pyraustinae, here it consists of two strongly developed lateral arms on the tegumen, separated or medially fused, forming a strongly sclerotized hook.

Munroeodes AMSEL, 1957 from the neotropical region has also a strongly developed pseudognathos (erroneously considered as a gnathos by MUNROE, 1964) but the morphology of the male and female genitalia is quite different in

both genera. This supports the theory that the pseudognathos has evolved separately in at least two genera.

***Pseudognatobotys* gen. n.**

Gender : male

Type species : *Pseudognatobotys diffusalis* sp. n.

Diagnosis

Male genitalia with a strongly developed pseudognathos, editum with simple setae and sella consisting of a simple sclerotized hook. Female genitalia with ductus bursae very long, spiraled and a simple rhomboid signum.

Description

External characters :

Head : frons rounded; maxillary palps obvious; labial palps well developed, correct; legs normal, mid-tibia not enlarged, spurs 0,2,4; antenna filiform.

Wings : elongated triangular, fore wings : R1 far from angle of cell, R2 parallel with R1 at the base, originating before upper angle of cell; R3+4 long, from upper angle of cell, parallel with R2, R3 before apex and R4 in apex; R5 just beyond upper angle of cell, parallel at base with R3+4 then diverging and parallel with M1; M2 and Cu1 at about the same distance from M3, M3 from lower angle of cell; 1A vein present. Hind wings : Sc+R1 anastomosed with Rs beyond the cell; M1 from upper cell angle, M2, M3 and Cu1 all close together but separated at the base, M3 originating close from lower cell angle. 3 A veins present. Retinaculum identical in both sexes, consisting of a series of scales/bristles near the Cu stem of the fore wing; frenulum simple in ♂, double in ♀.

Internal characters :

Tympanal organs : praecinctorium apically broadened, tympanal organs invaginated but fornix tympani above the venula prima; fornix tympani broad, saccus tympani shallow and broad; spinula absent.

Male genitalia : typical pyraustine genitalia with a well developed uncus, characteristic for the genus is the strongly developed pseudognathos; tegumen and saccus clearly visible; valva "ear-shaped" with a simple sella and editum, spicula in eadeagus absent.

Female genitalia : Ostium bursae broad with specific sclerotizations; basal part of ductus bursae enlarged, half turned when the narrow part starts, ductus bursae narrow for most of its length, spiraled near corpus bursae with a membranous appendix bursae originating near the base of the ductus bursae; rhomboid signum present.

Systematic position : This genus belongs to the Pyraustinae because of the typical male genitalia (valva with editum and sella) and the female genitalia (rhomboid signum, appendix bursae). It takes a special place because of the strongly developed pseudognathos. I place it close to the genus *Loxostege* HÜBNER, [1825]1816 based on similarities in the male genitalia. This new genus lacks the second signum on the ductus bursae and the spicula, both present in *Loxostege*. It shares the simple editum and sella found in most *Loxostege* species.

Distribution : Afrotropical (Cameroon, Uganda)

List of species

P. africalis spec.n.

P. diffusalis spec.n.

Key based on the male genitalia

Male genitalia with a medially fused pseudognathos *P. diffusalis*

Male genitalia with a pseudognathos consisting of two lateral arms

..... *P. africalis*

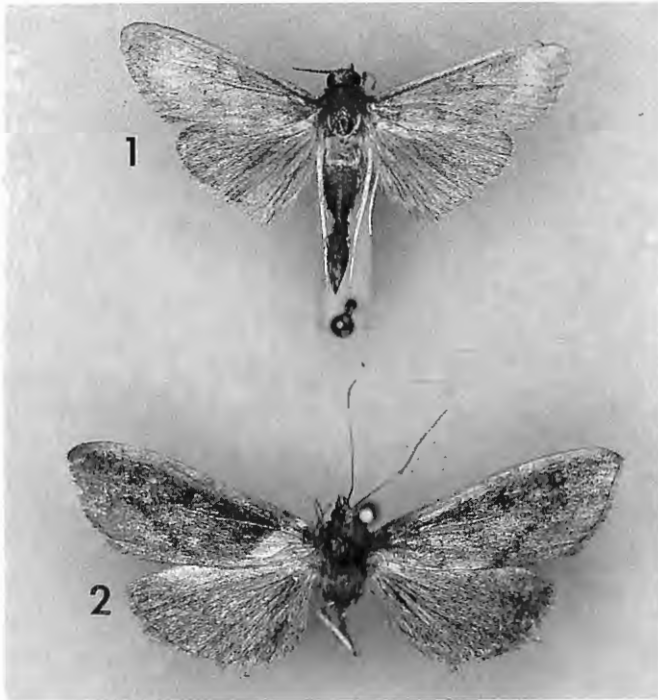


Plate 1. Adult Moths. 1 : *Pseudognathobotys diffusalis* sp. n. Paratype. 2 : *Pseudognathobotys africalis* sp. n. Paratype GPKM ♀20.087.

Pseudognathobotys africalis sp. n.**Diagnosis**

Pseudognathos existing of two lateral arms, apically heavily sclerotized carrying numerous short spines.

Description

Ground colour brown; legs all brown with some traces of white on tibia; fore wings : costa, ante- and postmedial line and reniform spot black; postme-

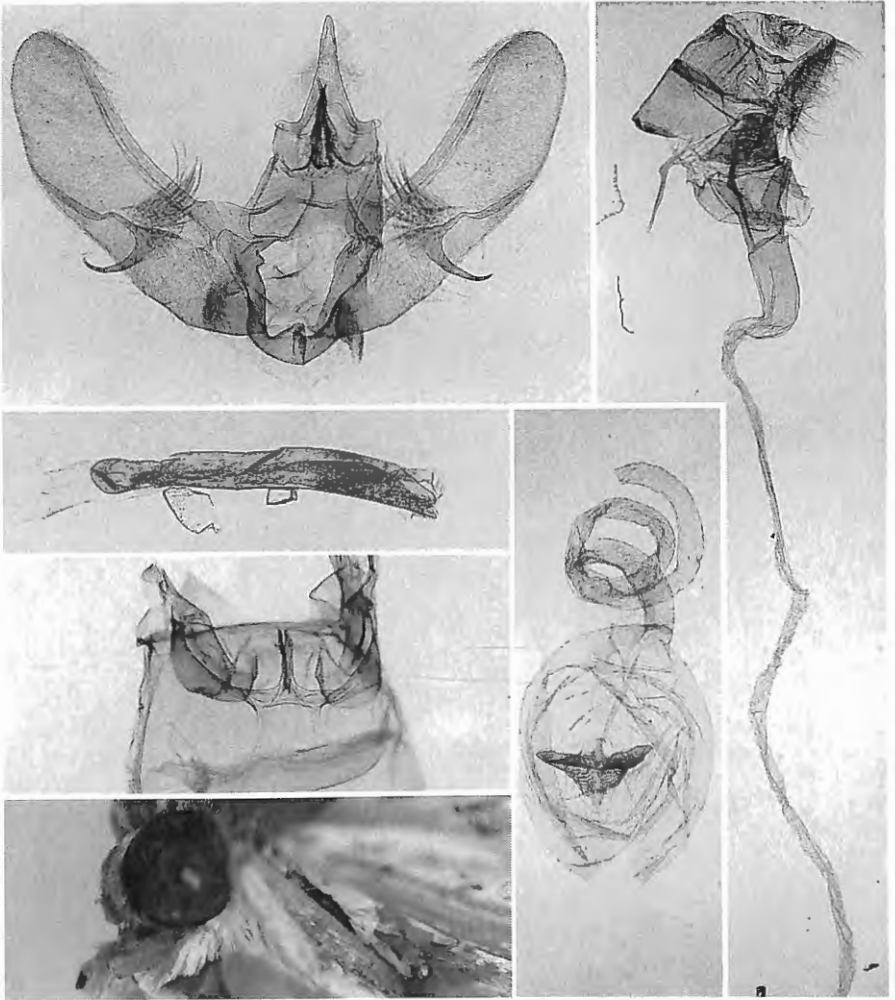


Plate 2. Genus plate. Male genitalia, aedeagus, tympanal organs : *P. diffusalis* Holotype. GPKM ♂595. Female genitalia : *P. africalis* Paratype. GPKM ♀20.Q87.

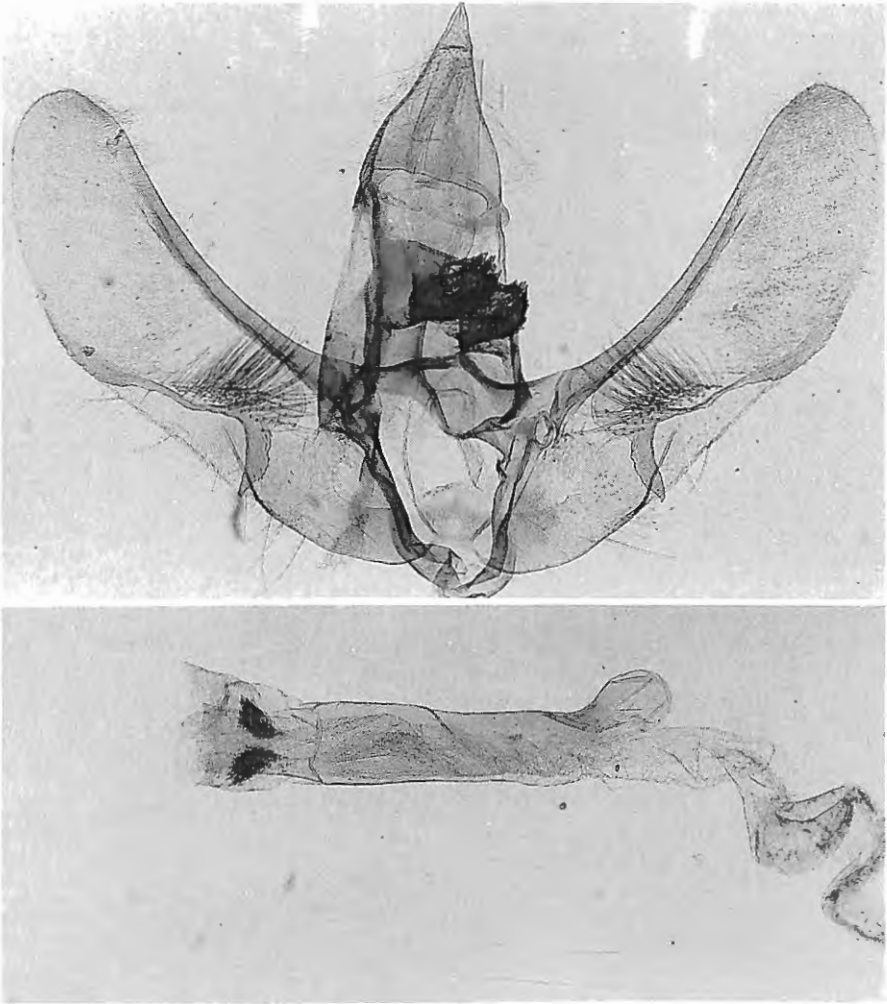


Plate 3. *P. africalis* Holotype GPKM σ 20.088.

dial line curved inwards somewhere between M2 and M3. Hind wings brown suffused with black scales; no wing pattern.

Underside wings more light gold-brown with traces of wing pattern of fore wing visible. On the hind wings a simple curved postmedial line is visible.

Wing span : 26-30mm.

Distribution : Uganda.

Life Cycle : unknown

Type material studied : Holotype : Uganda Unyoro Bugoma Forest Nov.-Dec.1967 A.Archer, GPKM ♂20.088 (NMK); 1 Paratype : Uganda Bwamba Toro June 1967 A.Archer, GPKM ♀20.087 (NMK).

Additional Material studied : 1♂ : [Congo, D.R.C.] Musée du Congo, Kivu, Vallée de la Lozo VIII.1937 J.Ghesquière R.Dét.M.4899 (MRAC).

Pseudognathobotys diffusalis sp. n.

Diagnosis

Pseudognathos medially fused forming two pointed hooks.

Description

Ground colour light brown; legs with brown femur and white tibia, underside of abdomen with white scales; wing pattern as in *P. africalis* spec.n. underside wings more lightly coloured as in previous species, wing pattern not visible.

Wing span : 24-25mm.

Distribution : Cameroon.

Life Cycle : unknown

Type material studied : Holotype : Cameroon, S.W. Prov. Buea 1200m 22.VI.1992 K.Maes, GPKM ♂595 (ABSRC); Paratype : 1♂, same locality, 29.IX.1992 (ABSRC).

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