

**The genus *Crypsitya* in Africa with the description of a new species and a world checklist of the genus (Lepidoptera Pyraloidea Crambidae Pyraustinae)**

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**Abstract**

Revisionary notes on the genus *Crypsitya* are given, including a world checklist and the description of a new species from Africa.

**Keywords :** *Crypsitya*, *Coclebotys* Munroe & Mutuura, syn.n.; *C. africalis* sp.n.; *C. ruficostalis* (Hampson) comb.n.; *C. megaptyona* (Hampson) comb.n.; *C. viettalis* (Marion); world species checklist, Africa.

**Introduction**

*Crypsitya* was established by MEYRICK (1894) for *Botys nereidalis* LEDERER, 1863 from Indonesia. MUNROE & MUTUURA (1969) erected the genus *Coclebotys* for *Botys coclesalis* WALKER, 1859. They also clarified the synonymy of that species. While studying the collections in The Natural History Museum (London) and comparing genitalia slides, I found that *B. coclesalis* is congeneric with *B. nereidalis*, therefore *Coclebotys* becomes a junior subjective synonym of *Crypsitya*. The genus has also a much larger distribution than first assumed. MUNROE & MUTUURA (l.c.) listed species with a palaeartic and oriental distribution. In this paper four species, three known and one new species, from Africa and one from Madagascar, are added to the species list. This genus has an Old World distribution with species occurring in the tropics of Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

All males of the three african mainland species have a peculiar tuft of scales on the ventral side of the forewing. A key for the african *Crypsitya* species is given.

Abbreviations used : ABSRC : AgroBioSys Reference Collection, Wetteren, Belgium.; BMNH : The Natural History Museum, London, UK; MNHN : Musée national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.

### World checklist of *Crypsitya* species

*Crypsitya* MEYRICK, 1894

type species : *Botys nereidalis* LEDERER, 1863

*Coclebotys* MUNROE & MUTUURA, 1969 **syn.n.**

type species : *Botys coclesalis* WALKER, 1859

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <i>C. africalis</i>  | (Cameroon) <b>sp.n.</b>     |
| <i>C. coclesalis</i> (WALKER, 1859) ( <i>Botys</i> )           | (Malaysia)                  |
| <i>interfusalis</i> (WALKER, 1865) ( <i>Botys</i> )            | (Java)                      |
| <i>lacrymalis</i> (LEECH, 1889) ( <i>Botys</i> )               | (Japan)                     |
| <i>strenualis</i> (WALKER, 1865) ( <i>Botys</i> )              | (South Hindoestan)          |
| <i>itemalesalis</i> (WALKER, 1859) ( <i>Botys</i> )            | (China)                     |
| <i>itemasalis</i> MUNROE & MUTUURA, 1969                       | misspelling.                |
| <i>C. megaptyona</i> (HAMPSON, 1918) ( <i>Crocidophora</i> )   | (Mozambique) <b>comb.n.</b> |
| <i>C. mutuuri</i> ROSE & PANJI, 1979                           | (India)                     |
| <i>C. nereidalis</i> (LEDERER, 1863) ( <i>Botys</i> )          | (Indonesia)                 |
| <i>fulgidalis</i> (PAGENSTECHE, 1900) ( <i>Psara</i> )         | (Bismarck Arch.)            |
| <i>C. ruficostalis</i> (HAMPSON, 1918) ( <i>Crocidophora</i> ) | (Mozambique) <b>comb.n.</b> |
| <i>C. viettalis</i> (MARION, 1956) ( <i>Crocidophora</i> )     | (Madagascar) <b>comb.n.</b> |

#### Key to the african *Crypsitya* species based on the male genitalia.

1. Ventral part of sella reaches near or beyond the ventral border of the valva . . . . . *C. megaptyona*
- Ventral part of sella is not near or beyond the ventral border of the valva . . . . . 2
2. Valva of equal width over their whole length, apically broadly rounded . . 3
- Valva apically narrowing . . . . . *C. viettalis*
3. Broad, rounded sclerotized protrusion at apical part of aedeagus, cornutus as a short plate . . . . . *C. ruficostalis*
- No apical protrusion present on aedeagus, cornutus more elongate . . . . . *C. africalis*

#### Descriptions

##### *Crypsitya africalis* sp.n.

**Diagnosis :** Valva with a short sella, not reaching the ventral part of the valva, aedeagus with numerous slender spicula and a characteristic elongated oval cornutus. The valva are more slender as in *C. megaptyona* and *C. ruficostalis*.



Plate 1. *C. africalis* sp.n. A : Adult moth, Holotype Gen.Prepare.K.Maes ♂600 (ABSRC); B : Detail of cell on upper side of the fore wing; C : Detail of cell on lower side of fore wing.

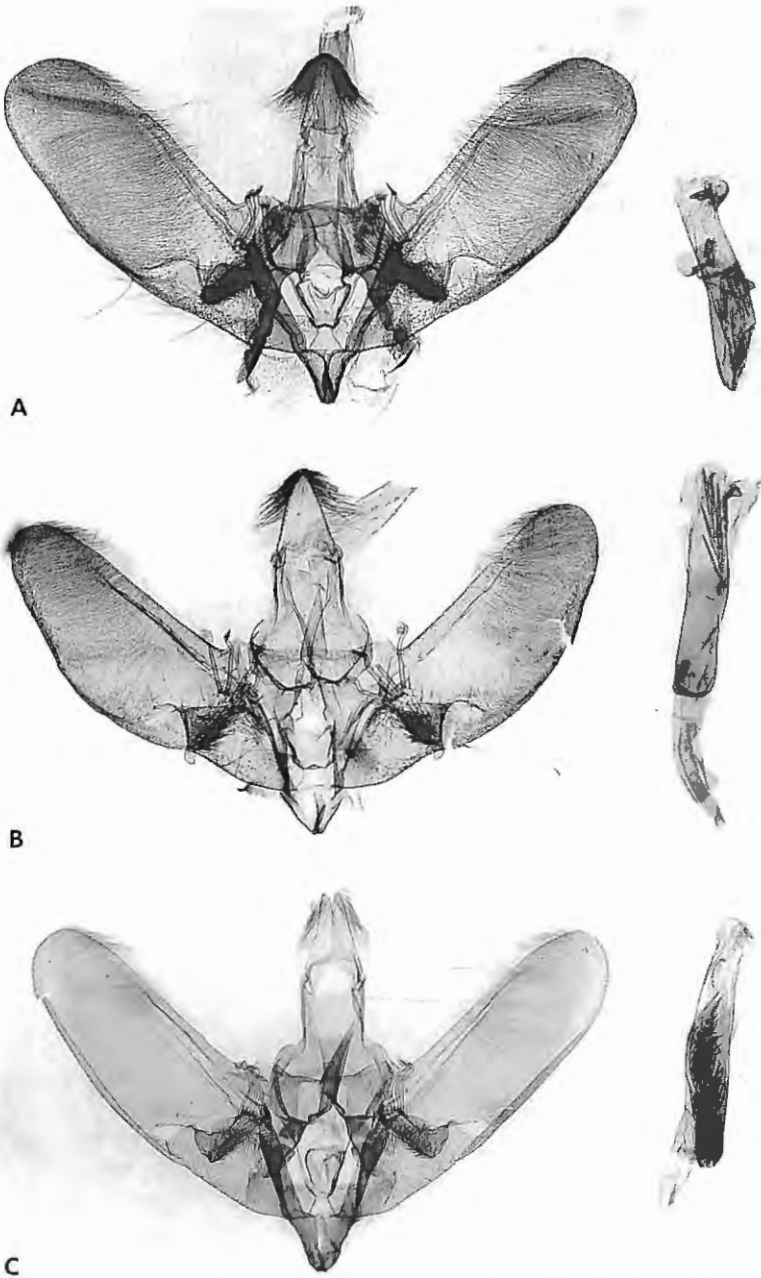


Plate 2. A : *C. ruficostalis* (HAMPSON, 1918) Holotype Pyralidae Br. Mus. Slide nr. ♂19940 (BMNH); B : *C. megyptyona* (HAMPSON, 1918) Lectotype Pyralidae Br. Mus. Slide nr. ♂19941 (BMNH); C : *C. africalis* sp.n. Holotype Gen. Prep. K. Maes ♂600 (ABSRC).

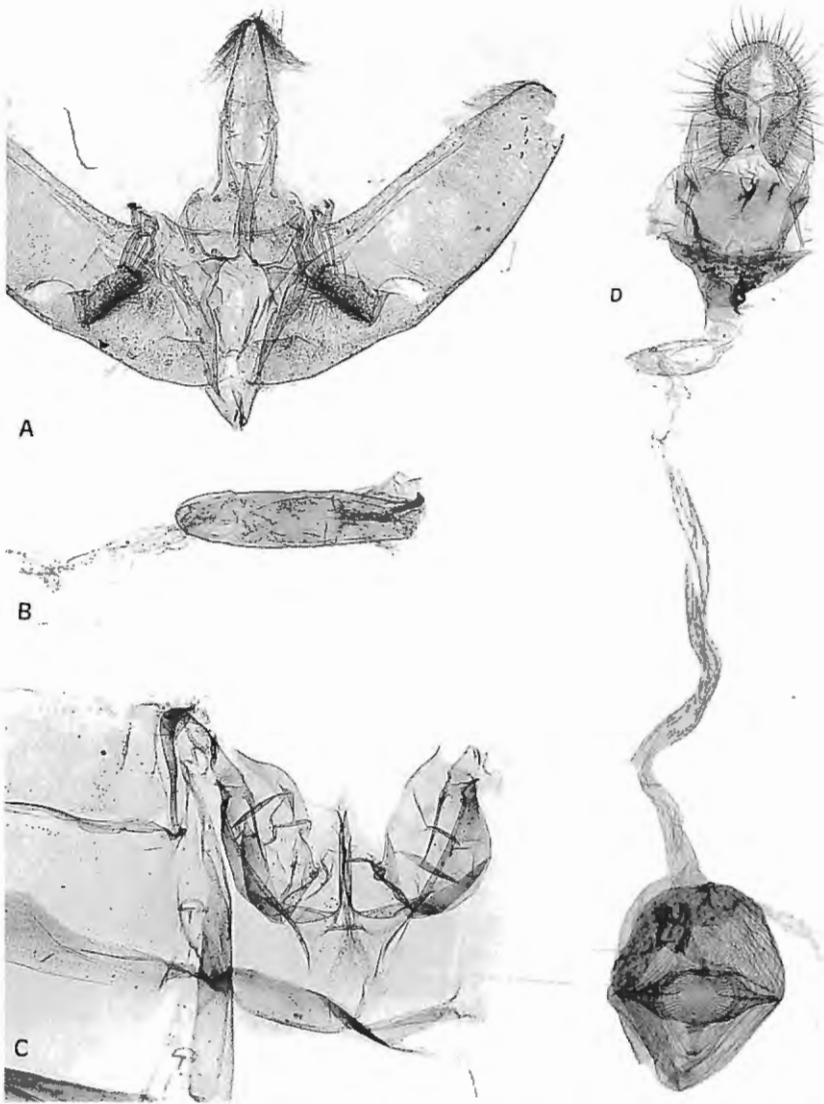


Plate 3. *C. viettalis* (MARION, 1956); A : Gen. Prep. K. Maes ♂20449 (MNHN); B : idem, aedeagus; C : idem, tympanal organs; D : Gen. Prep. K. Maes ♀20453 (MNHN).

### Description :

#### External characters :

Head : frons rounded, labial palps porrect and maxillary palps clearly visible, last segment with a thick tuft of scales.

Wings : overall colour brown suffused with some black scales, no wing pat-

tern present. Costa straight; R1 before upper corner of cell; R2 originating from upper corner of cell, parallel over two thirds of its length with R3+4; base of R3+4 close to R2; R3 terminating before termen, R3 terminating in termen. R5, M1 and M2 parallel with each other over their whole length; M3 from lower angle of cell; Cul and Cu2 clearly originating before lower cell corner. Single A vein present.

Males have on the underside of the wing a tuft of elongated scales in an area between the Anal vein and Cu2 roughly along the Median stem. The M-stem forms a sigmoid shaped bend. The upperside of the wing is in that area covered with minute scales giving the area a transparent impression. Males with retinaculum hook and single frenulum.

Wingspan : 20-22 mm.

Internal characters :

Tympanal organs : Praecinctorium bilobed; fornix tympani broad, extending beyond the venula prima; saccus tympani shallow.

Male genitalia : Uncus simple, dorsally with simple setae; tegumen and saccus as in the other two african species; juxta narrow V-shaped; valva narrower as in the other african species, rounded at the end; sella rather small, editum with 5 to 6 modified setae; aedeagus with needle shaped spicula and a narrow, elongated cornutus.

Female genitalia : unknown.

Life Cycle : unknown.

Distribution : Cameroon.

Type material examined : Holotype : 1♂ : Cameroon, S.W. Mt. Etinde, Etumba 125m 29.XII.1988 K.Maes, Gen.Prep.K.Maes ♂ 600 (ABSRC); Paratype : 1♂ : Cameroon, S.W., Mt. Cameroon, Bonakanda 1325m 29.XII.1988 K.Maes, Gen.Prep.K.Maes ♂ 587 (ABSRC).

#### References

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