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NEW TAXONOMIC AND FAUNISTIC DATA ON YPONOMEUTID MOTHS (LEPIDOPTERA: YPONOMEUTIDAE) WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES FROM THE FAR EAST OF RUSSIA

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Summary. A new species *Euhyponomeutoides kangauziensis* sp. n. is described from the Far East of Russia. The genus *Niphonympha* Meyrick and the species *N. vera* Moriuti are new for the fauna of Russia. Photographs of adults and female genitalia are given for both species. A historical review of nomenclatural acts and taxonomic changes within the genus *Niphonympha* is provided to point out erroneous interpretations in scientific publications.

Key words: moths, Yponomeutidae, taxonomy, nomenclatural acts, new species, fauna, new records, Russia.

А. А. Тарасова, М. Г. Пономаренко. Новые таксономические и фаунистические данные по горностаевым молям (Lepidoptera: Yponomeutidae) с описанием нового вида с Дальнего Востока России // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2025. N 524. С. 1-13.

Резюме. С Дальнего Востока России описан новый вид *Euhyponomeutoides kangauziensis* sp. n. Род *Niphonympha* Meyrick и вид *N. vera* Moriuti впервые

приводятся для фауны России. Для обоих видов приведены фотографии имаго и гениталий самок. Дан исторический обзор номенклатурных актов и таксономических изменений внутри рода *Niphonympha* Meyrick для указания на ошибочные интерпретации в научных публикациях.

INTRODUCTION

Until now, the family Yponomeutidae included 68 species from 14 genera in the fauna of Russia, the majority of which, 39 species from 10 genera, inhabit the Far East (Ponomarenko & Sinev, 2019, 2024). The indicated taxonomic diversity of ermine moths in the Russian Far East is not final, since this group has been poorly studied, both in Russia and in the neighbouring countries of the East Asia. This is evidenced by the results of study of unsorted material on ermine moths kept in the Federal Scientific Center of Biodiversity, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia, Vladivostok). A new species of the genus *Euhyponomeutoides* Gaj, 1954 has been discovered among the specimens collected in the south of Far East. Until now, this genus was represented in the fauna of this region by two species: *E. albithoracellus* Gaj, 1954 and *E. trachydelta* (Meyrick, 1931). The genus *Niphonympha* Meyrick, 1914 has not been recorded in Russia. The species *N. vera* Moriuti, 1963 was known only from Japan, where it was described from, and from South Korea (Hirowatari, 2013; Park, 1983). The discovery of *N. vera* in Primorskii Krai not only increases the generic and species lists of yponomeutid moths for Russia, but also expands the boundary of the known range of the species to the north.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study is based on the material kept in Federal Scientific Center of Biodiversity of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia, Vladivostok). For identification of specimens of ermine moths the genitalia were prepared by traditional lepidopterological techniques (Falkovitsh & Stekolnikov, 1978), the essence of which is maceration of the soft tissue in 10–15% KOH. The membranous parts in the genitalia were stained by chlorazol black. The genitalia were studied in glycerol using a Nikon SMZ-10 stereomicroscope then mounted in Euparal following Robinson (1976). Photographs of the genitalia slides were made with an Olympus SZX16 microscope with an incorporated digital camera DP74 Nikon. Some photographs of genital structures at higher magnification were taken using a Zeiss Axioskop 40 microscope equipped with a digital camera AxioCam HRc. In the descriptions the terminology follows Klots (1970).

The holotype of the new species and specimen of first recorded species are deposited in the Bioresource collection (registration number 2797657) in Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity, Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences (Vladivostok).

The following abbreviations were used in the text:

BC FSCB – Bioresource collection in the Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity, abbreviation of the Center where the material is stored; GS – genital slide; ICZN – International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature; AT – A.A. Tarasova, who prepared the slides.

TAXONOMY

Genus *Euhypnometoides* Gaj, 1954

Euhypnometoides Gaj, 1954: 11.

Type species: *Euhypnometoides albithoracellus* Gaj, 1954, by original designation.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Russia (European part, south of West Siberia, Zabaykalskii Krai, Far East), Transcaucasia, China (Sichuan, Jiangxi), South Korea, Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu), N India (Himachal Pradesh, former East Punjab) and North America (Canada, USA) (Moriuti, 1977; Park, 1983; Sohn et al., 2010; Hirowatari, 2013; Lewis & Sohn, 2015; Ponomarenko, 2016; Landry & Pohl, 2018; Ponomarenko & Sinev, 2024).

REMARKS. Currently the eight species belong to this genus, including a new species (Lewis & Sohn, 2015). Five species are distributed in Palearctic region and three of them inhabit the Russian Far East: *E. albithoracellus* Gaj, *E. trachydelta* (Meyrick) and *E. kangauziensis* **sp. n.**

Euhypnometoides kangauziensis Tarasova et Ponomarenko, **sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/1889527E-421F-4936-8B49-EF9840BBD30A>

Figs 1, 2, 6–10.

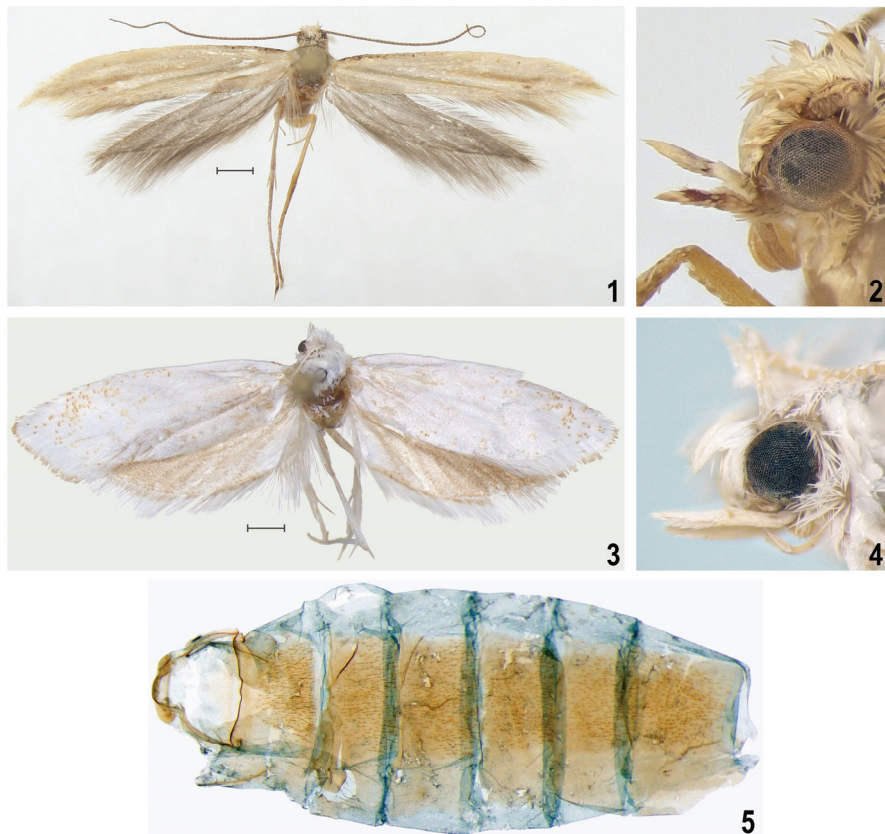
TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype – ♀, **Russia**: Primorskii Krai, Shkotovskii distr., 6 km SW of Anisimovka vill., 43°07'28" N, 132°47'42" E, h = 480 m, 15.V 2018, M.G. Ponomarenko leg. (GS 341 AT, BC FSCB).

DIAGNOSIS. The new species differs from congeners by strongly expanded ventral arms of apophyses anteriores into rounded in shape and concave sclerites fused medially; angular setaceous lobes of the postvaginal plate; position of ostium slightly caudal of posterior margin of segment 7 and wide ductus bursae with granulated inner surface in the female genitalia.

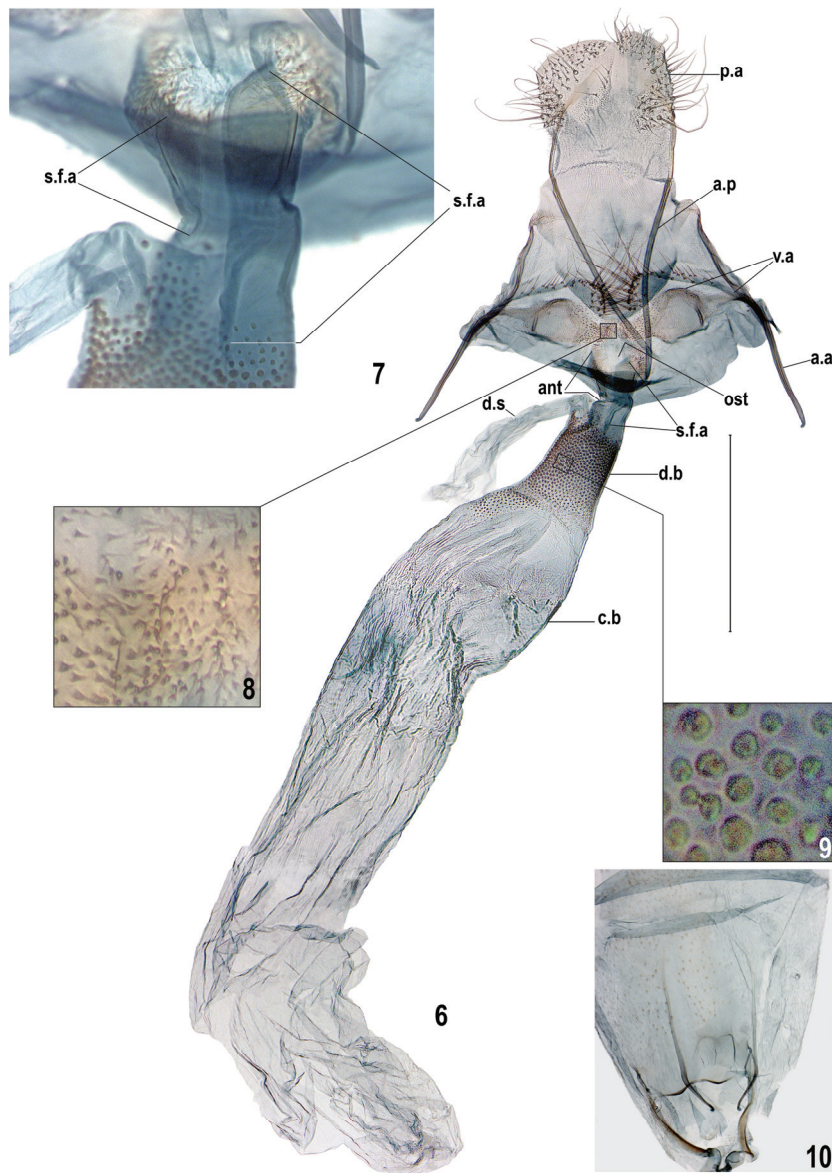
DESCRIPTION. **Adult female** (Figs 1, 2). Wingspan 18 mm, forewing length 8.5 mm. Head covered with raised yellowish-beige scales. Labial palpus slightly curved up in proximal part and directed forward in distal part; first segment 2 times shorter than second segment, second and third segments almost equal in length; first and second segments beige, third segment beige on inner side and at apex, its basal 2/3 with scattered dark-brown scales on outer and upper sides (Fig. 2). Antennal scape

brownish grey on the upper side and light beige on underside, flagellum brownish grey and 4/5 of wing length. Thorax beige, tegula grey at basal 2/3 and light beige distally. Forewing narrow, elongated, with stretched and pointed apex; yellowish beige, with brownish costal edge at the basal 1/3, dark dot near outer margin at about 3/5 wing length and with three indistinct longitudinal lines of ochre colour and extend along the costal edge, in the middle and in anal fold of wing; fringe concolorous with forewing (Fig. 1). Hindwing grey, with concolorous fridge. Legs yellowish beige.

Second abdominal sternite with a W-shaped deepening of unknown function. Apodemes well-developed, almost 6 times shorter than second sternite, venulae almost reach posterior edge of sternite and curved medially in distal 1/8 (Fig. 10).

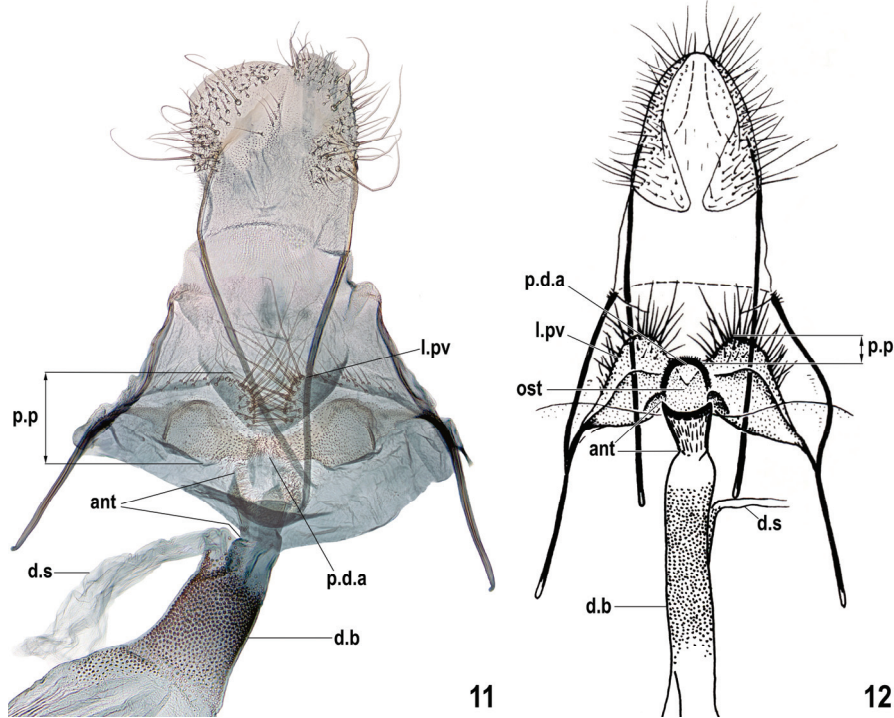


Figs 1–5. External morphology of moths. 1, 2 – *Euhyponomeutoides kangauziensis* **sp. n.**, holotype, female; 3–5 – *Niphonympha vera*, female. 1, 3 – adult, 2, 4 – head, 5 – abdominal segments from sternal side. Scale bar for Figures 1 and 3 – 1 mm.



Figs 6–10. *Euhyponomeutoides kangauziensis* sp. n., holotype, female genitalia. 6 – ventral view, GS 341 AT; 7 – antrum with microtrichia in posterior part and semi-sclerotised folds, enlarged; 8 – microtrichia on transverse sclerotisation of postvaginal plate, enlarged; 9 – fragment of granulated inner surface of ductus bursae, enlarged; 10 – 2nd abdominal sternite. *ant* – antrum, *a.a* – apophysis anterioris, *a.p* – apophysis posterioris, *c.b* – corpus bursae, *d.b* – ductus of corpus bursae, *d.s* – ductus seminalis, *ost* – ostium, *p.a* – papilla analis, *s.f.a* – semi-sclerotised fold of antrum, *v.a* – ventral arm of apophysis anterioris. Scale bar for Figure 6 – 0.5 mm.

Female genitalia (Figs 6–9). Ovipositor relatively short, membrane between 9th and 8th abdominal segments approximately equal to length of papillae anales. Posterior margin of segment 8 with deep notch, which extending beyond middle of segment. Apophysis posterioris 2.4 times longer than not bifurcated part of apophysis anterioris. Ventral arms of both apophyses anteriores expanded in sternal area into rounded concave sclerites, which fused medially forming transverse sternal sclerotisation covered with microtrichia (Figs 6, 8, 11). The posterior margin of the sternal sclerotisation with deep notch. Two angular lobes with long setae placed caudally of transverse sclerotisation. Ostium large and rounded, its diameter equal with that of each rounded concave sclerite. Antrum short, semi-sclerotised and fused with anterior margin of sternal sclerotisation by posterior margin of dorsal side; its posterior part with microtrichia on inner surface. Two longitudinal semi-sclerotised folds extend forward along sides of antrum, right one of which considerably larger and with two strands reaching the ductus bursae (Fig. 7). Ductus bursae with narrowing between short antrum and rest part; gradually widened towards corpus bursae; in distal part twice as wide as antrum; with granulated inner surface for excepting short part before place of ductus seminalis arising (Fig. 9). Base of ductus seminalis



Figs 11, 12. *Euhyponomeutoides* spp., female abdominal terminalia. 11 – *E. kangauziensis* sp. n., 12 – *E. namikoeae*, after Moriuti (1977). *l.pv* – lobes of postvaginal plate, *p.d.a* – posterior margin of antrum dorsal side, *p.p* – postvaginal plate; other designations as in the Figure 6.

and caudal left part of corpus bursae also with granulated inner surface. Corpus bursae indistinctly separated from ductus bursae, about 8,5 times longer than ductus bursae, membranous, without signum.

Male. Unknown.

MORPHOLOGICAL NOTES. In appearance, *E. kangauziensis* **sp. n.** is similar to the European *E. ribesiella* (de Joannis, 1900) and East Asian *E. namikoe* Moriuti, 1977 by monochromatic groundcolour and pattern of forewings with dark costal margin basally and single dot near outer margin approximately at 3/5 of wing length. Generally, the new species and *E. namikoe* are similar by morphology of female genitalia, but have different position and shape of genital structures. In new species the posterior margin of rounded concave sclerites formed by expanded ventral arms of anterior apophyses with deep notch medially and their position distaller than posterior margin of antrum dorsal side (Fig. 11). In the *E. namikoe* the posterior margin of the same sclerotisation placed anterad the posterior margin of antrum dorsal side (Fig. 12). The distal lobes of postvaginal plate small and angular in new species, their posterior edge not exceed the middle of segment 8. The distal lobes of postvaginal plate stretched caudally in *E. namikoe* and their apices placed at the level of 3/4 of 8th segment.

REMARKS. Within the framework of used terminology for genital structures in Lepidoptera, described transverse sternal sclerotisation in the female genitalia, formed by expanded ventral arms of anterior apophyses in sternal region of segment 8, should be considered as postvaginal plate (*lamella postvaginalis*). This transverse sclerotisation is a characteristic feature of this genus. As for the lobes of the postvaginal plate bearing long setae, that is similar with female genitalia of other yponomeutoid species.

HOST PLANT. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Russia (south of Far East: Primorskii Krai).

ETYMOLOGY. The name of the new species is derived from old name of the settlement Kangauz [Anisimovka], where a type specimen was collected.

Genus *Niphonympha* Meyrick, 1914

Niphonympha Meyrick, 1914: 174.

Calantica Zeller, 1847: 812 (nom. praeocc., non Gray, 1825).

Type species: *Calantica albella* Zeller, 1847 (= *dealbatella* Zeller, 1847), by subsequent designation (Busck, 1912).

DISTRIBUTION. South Europe; Russia (Far East), first record; South Korea; China (Tianjin, Gansu, Xizang, Shaanxi, Henan, Anhui, Guizhou, Hainan); Japan (Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu) (Moriuti, 1977; Zaguljaev, 1981; Agassiz & Friese, 1996; Yu & Li, 2002; Jin & Li, 2012; Hirowatari, 2013).

REMARKS. Nomenclatural acts. The generic name *Niphonympha* is established as an objective replacement name for *Calantica* Zeller, 1847, which turned out

to be a junior homonym of *Calantica* Gray, 1825 in Crustacea (Meyrick, 1914a). The species *albella* is indicated as type species of the genus with authorships of Zeller following its designation for genus *Calantica* by Busck (1912).

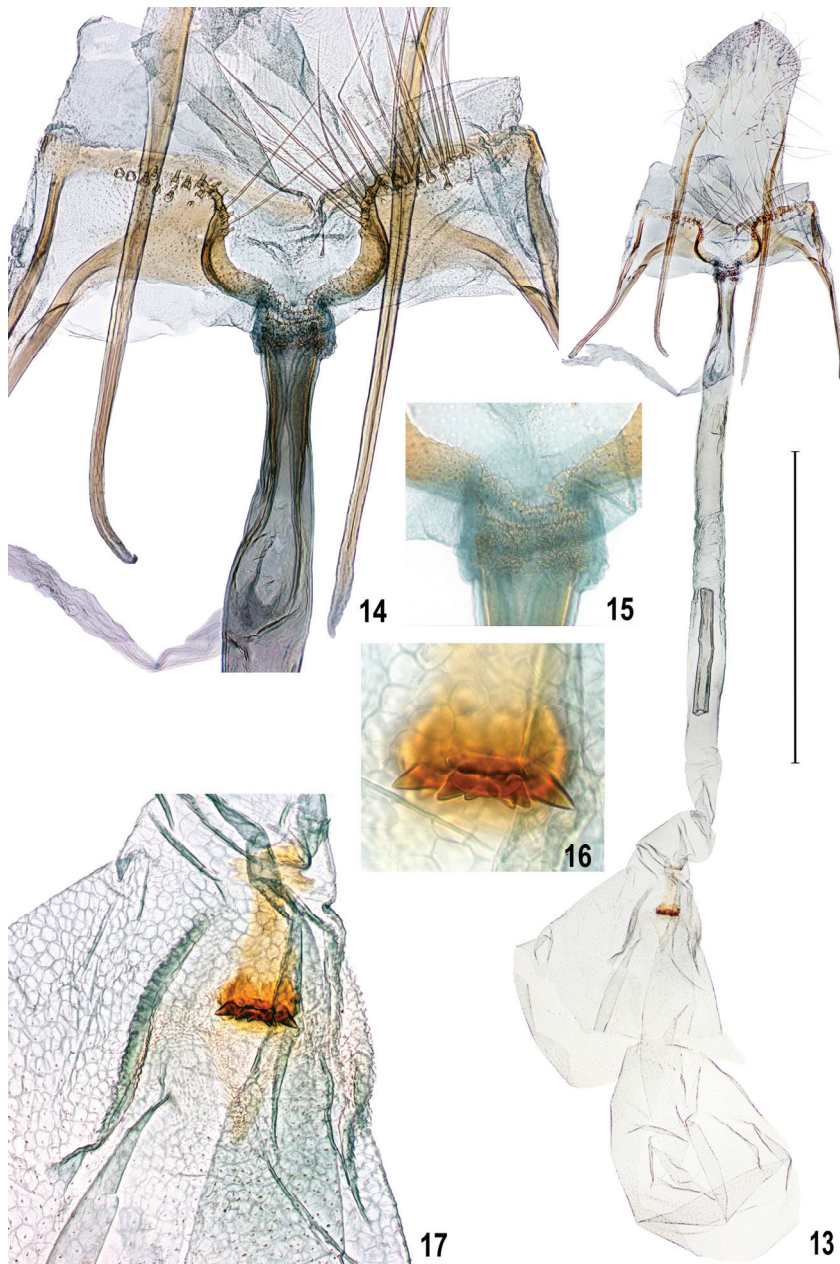
Originally, Zeller introduced the names *Calantica* and *albella* with reference to Heyden: “*Calantica* v. Heyden, in litt.” and “*albella* v. Heyden, in litt.”. However, the species *albella* was never described by von Heyden, as this fact is correctly noted by Lewis & Sohn (2015). But they are incorrectly stated that “*Calantica dealbatella* by Zeller is ... the type of the genus [*Niphonympha*]”, and that nomenclatural changes of Friese (1960) and followers “has led to the perpetuation of the error”.

Zeller described a new species *Calantica dealbatella* in 1847 based on specimens he collected in Italy and Sicily. At the end of the description he compared his new species with three specimens of *albella* obtained from Mr. von Heyden and indicated the differences between them. Furthermore, Zeller in his work indicated the diagnosis in Latin and provided a description of the genus *Calantica*, which, as *albella*, had also never been described before. Therefore, the generic name *Calantica* and the species name *albella* should be considered available with Zeller's author name, who first published them (Zeller, 1847), and the date of publication of his work in accordance with the Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999: Arts 10, 21 and 50). Later both species *dealbatella* and *albella* were indicated as valid in series publications at the end of 19th and beginning of 20th centuries (Herrich-Schaffer, 1855; Stainton, 1869; Hainemann, 1870; Rebel, 1901; Meyrick, 1914b).

Although the species *dealbatella* (Zeller, 1847: 811) was described in detail unlike *albella* (ibid.: 812), Busck (1912) chose the *albella* as type species for the genus *Calantica* Zeller. Thus, Busck was the first reviser, who designed a type species for the genus and, as a result, no later designation can be valid (ICZN, 1999: Arts 24.2, 69.1). The fixation of the type species for *Calantica* automatically determined the type species for the replacement name *Niphonympha* Meyrick (ICZN, 1999: Art. 67.8). Therefore, the subsequent designation of *Calantica dealbatella* Zeller, 1847 as the type species for *Niphonympha* Meyrick by Fletcher (1929) cannot be accepted. However, in the mentioned work, Fletcher was the first reviser, who established precedence of the name *dealbatella* over the name *albella* and synonymised them (ICZN, 1999: Art. 24.2.1). Therefore, the *Calantica albella* Zeller, 1847 is a type species of the genus *Niphonympha* Meyrick, 1914 and a junior objective synonym of *Calantica dealbatella* Zeller, 1847 (ICZN, 1999: Art. 24.2.2).

The indications *dealbatella* Zeller, 1847 as a junior synonym of *albella* Zeller, 1847 by Friese (1960), Leraut (1980), Zaguljaev (1981) and Agassiz & Friese (1996) are erroneous.

SPECIES INCLUDED. The composition of the genus *Niphonympha* was substantially revised in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. For the three species *oxydelta* Meyrick, 1913, *duplicata* Meyrick, 1913 and *devota* Meyrick, 1913, originally described within *Calantica* (= *Niphonympha*), the genus *Anthonympa* Moriuti, 1971 was established in the family Plutellidae (Moriuti, 1971). The genus



Figs 13–16. *Niphonympha vera* Moriuti, female genitalia. 13 – ventral view, GS 337 AT; 14 – postvaginal plate, antrum and proximal part of ductus bursae, enlarged; 15 – antrum with microtrichia on inner surface; 16 – fragment of signum with 6 larger teeth in anterior row, enlarged; 17 – caudal part of corpus bursae with signum. Scale bar for Figure 13 – 1 mm.

Trisophista Meyrick, 1924 with type species *doctissima* Meyrick, 1924, previously synonymised with *Niphonympha* by Gershenzon & Ulenberg (1998), was restored by Agassiz (2019). The species *pauli* Viette, 1967, originally described in the genus *Trisophista*, and later included in the genus *Niphonympha* (Lewis & Sohn, 2015), was transferred to the genus *Yponomeuta* Latreille, [1796] and synonymised with *Y. strigillata* Zeller, 1852 (Agassiz, 2019). Until now, the taxonomic position of the Central American species *argentella* Busck, 1912 is doubtful, since the morphology of its genitalia has not been studied. However, Freese had previously indicated that this species certainly does not belong to this genus (Frieese, 1960). Thus, the genus *Niphonympha* reliably includes six species – one European *N. dealbatella* Zeller, 1847 and four East Asian *N. vera* Moriuti, 1963; *N. longispina* Yu et Li, 2002; *N. varivera* Yu et Li, 2002 and *N. wuzhishana* Jin et Li, 2012.

***Niphonympha vera* Moriuti, 1963**

Figs 13–17

Niphonympha vera Moriuti, 1963: 215.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Russia:** Primorskii Krai, Ussuriiskii distr., Ussuriiskii Natural Reserve, 42 km SE of Ussuriisk, at the mouth of Mironov spring, mountain coniferous-broadleaf forests, 43°38'42" N 132°26'42" E, h = 400 m, 18.VII 1970, 1♀, [D. Kononov leg.] (GS 337 AT, BC FSCB).

DIAGNOSIS. Wingspan 18 mm. forewing length 8.5 mm. Head and thorax white, labial palpi white, with scattered yellowish scales (Fig. 4). Forewings white with scattered light yellowish-brown scales, which darker at the apex and denser in the distal half along the costal margin; fringe mostly white, yellowish brown at the apex (Fig. 3). Hindwings yellowish brown; fringe mostly white, with yellowish-brown base. Abdominal segments with zones of short setae on sternal side (Fig. 5).

Female genitalia with postvaginal plate consisting of two more or less triangular sclerites formed by widening of ventral arms of anterior apophyses, with long setae on posterior margin (Fig. 14). Dorsal arms of anterior apophyses merged at the middle into ribbon-like sclerotisation stretched along posterior margin of 8th segment dorsally. Posterior margin of postvaginal plate with deep goblet-shaped notch. Antrum very short, sclerotised, with microtrichia on inner surface (Fig. 15). Ductus bursae sclerotised for 5/7 of its length and with small membranous distal area, narrowed beyond antrum and widened before corpus bursae, more or less the same width along the remaining length (Fig. 13). Corpus bursae rounded and membranous, with a signum in the caudal part; signum as longitudinally elongated plate of irregular shape – triangular in anterior part and rounded posteriorly, with a transverse groove at the middle bearing two rows of teeth, anterior row of which with 6 larger teeth (Figs 16, 17).

HOST PLANT. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Russia (south of Far East: Primorskii Krai), first record; South Korea; Japan (Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu).

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