Two new species of moths (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, Chrysauginae) associated with the three-toed sloth (Bradypus spp.) in South America

J. D. Bradley

Abstract

Two species of chrysaugine moths, discovered as a result of an ecological study in Brazil of tree sloths and their ectoparasites, are described as new and named Cryptoses waagei sp. n. and C. rufipictus sp. n. They are differentiated from their single congener C. choloepi Dyar and near relatives Bradypophila garbei Ihering and Bradypodicola hahneii Spuler which are also found on tree sloths.

Several species of pyralid moths of the subfamily Chrysauginae have long been known to live habitually in the fur of tree sloths in South America. The moths were generally believed to be parasites and to inhabit the fur of the animal throughout their life-cycle. It is only comparatively recently, in a report by Waage & Montgomery (1976) based on an ecological study of the moth Cryptoses choloepi Dyar, which occurs in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, and the three-toed sloth Bradypus variegatus (=infuscatus), that factual evidence on the moth-sloth relationship has become available. The relationship proved to be phoretic, since only in the adult stage (imago) does the moth actually live in the animal's fur. The immature stages of the moth (ovum, larva, pupa) were found not to live on the animal but on its dung, the larva being coprophagous (see also Waage & Best, 1932, for review).

Subsequently, when ecological studies were extended to Brazil, it was observed that the moths living on the three-toed sloth (Bradypus tridactylus and B. variegatus) occurring there differed significantly from C. choloepi in certain characteristics. Taxonomic study of the Brazilian specimens, together with material in the collections of the British Museum (Natural History), has shown that two distinct species are involved which are closely related and apparently congeneric with C. choloepi but hitherto undescribed.

Cryptoses Dyar, 1908
Cryptoses waagei sp. n.
(Figs. 1-4)

WINGSPAN: \( \delta, \varphi \) 13-15 mm. Sexual dimorphism not pronounced, female usually larger, sexes similar in coloration and forewing pattern, with antennae shortly ciliate, flagellum of male somewhat stouter. Labial palpus, head, thorax, patagium and tegula ochreous-brown, variably suffused with grey-brown; antennal scape and flagellum ochreous-white, scaling of flagellum in male confined mainly to basal part. In both sexes forewing long and narrow, with apex produced and pointed and termen very oblique; ground colour ochreous-white, marked with somewhat diffuse longitudinal streaks or rays consisting of black and grey-black scales mixed with dull purplish red scales, comprising basically a subcostal, a medial and a subdorsal streak, these more or less confluent in basal area of wing, diverging distally and interrupted before termen by a narrow band of ground colour, the subcostal streak divided into two plumes and the medial streak into four plumes postmedially; a series of 5 or 6 blackish interneural dots dispersed along termen; cilia grey, with a diffuse, blackish brown subbasal line. Hindwing uniformly dark grey, the scaling rather thin-spread; cilia unicolorous, with a blackish brown subbasal line. Legs ochreous-white, irrorate or diffusely marked with blackish brown exteriorly. Abdomen ochreous-brown, darker ventrally; male with a light ochreous-brown anal tuft.

MALE GENITALIA: Uncus conical and sparsely setose, its apex reaching well beyond

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(1) — Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, c/ British Museum (Natural History) Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.
Figs. 1-4 — Cryptoses waagei sp. n.: 1, imago, ♂; 2, male genitalia, ventral aspect (aedeagus removed); 3, aedeagus, lateral aspect; 4, female genitalia, ventral aspect.
comparatively small lateral protuberances at base. Gnathos with medial process long and slender, hook-tipped. Valva comparatively short and broad, truncated distally; sacculus narrow, reaching to about middle of ventral margin of valva, its upper (dorsal) margin sharply produced at about middle. Aedeagus with membranous apical part (vesica) minutely spiculate, basal part without internal sclerotization.

**FEMALE GENITALIA:** Ovipositor extensile, pointed, with lobes (papillae anales) long and narrow. Eighth sternite long and comparatively slender; ostium situated anteriorly (on intersegmental membrane), ovate (wider than broad); sterigma forming a thin, weakly sclerotized rim; ductus bursae and bursa copulatrix very weakly developed, membranous.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED**

**HOLOTYPE**  
Brazil, Upper Amazon, Codajas, iv.1907 (S.M. Klages); abdomen in situ.
Paratypes: Brazil, Manaus, xi.1919 (Parish), 1 ♀ (genitalia slide 13933); Manaus, 12.iv.1978, ex Bradypus sp. (J. K. Waage), 4 ♂ (genitalia slide 13887), 1 ♀ (genitalia slide 13891); Manaus, 19.iii.1978, ex Bradypus sp. (R.C. Best), 1 ♀; same locality data but dated 27.iii.1978, 1 ♂; ditto 28.iii.1978, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; ditto 8.vi.1979, 1 ♀; Parintins, 1.x.1919 (Parish), 1 ♀ (wing slide 13921, abdomen missing); Rio Japurá, lago Amanã, 2.ix.1979, at light (R.C. Best), 2 ♀; same locality data but dated 10.ix.1979, 3 ♀. Holotype and 9 paratypes deposited in the British Museum (Natural History); 8 paratypes in the Museum of Zoology of the University, São Paulo: Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém, and Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus.

**Cryptoses rufipictus** sp. n.

(Figs. 5-9)

**WINGSpan:** ♂ 11-12 mm, ♀ 15-18 mm

Sexual dimorphism moderately pronounced, female larger and with general coloration of forewing darker; antennae shortly ciliate in both sexes. Labial palpus, head, thorax, pata-
Figs. 5-9 — *Cryptoses rufipictus* sp. n.: 5, imago, ♂; 6, imago, ♀; 7, male genitalia, ventral aspect (aedeagus removed); 8, aedeagus, lateral aspect; 9, female genitalia, ventral aspect.
quarter to one third along ventral margin, its inner edge smooth and even. Aedeagus with membranous apical part (vesica) minutely spiculate, basal part strongly sclerotized internally, terminating apically in a long acicular process (cornutus).

**FEMALE GENITALIA:** Ovipositor extensile slender, pointed, with lobes (papillae anales) long and narrow. Eighth sternite comparatively broad; ostium situated anteriorly (on intersegmental membrane), circular; sterigma membranous posteriorly, weakly sclerotized anteriorly and forming a thin rim. In some specimens examined the ostium bursae had become impregnated with an opaque spherical mass of black mould spores.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED**

**HOLOTYPE** ♂: French Guiana. St Jean de Maroni, ante 1939 (E. Le Moult); abdomen *in situ*. Paratypes: same data as holotype, 9 ♂ (genitalia slides 13911, 13915, 13916), 20 ♀ (genitalia slides 13909, 13914); Brazil, R. Maroni, — 1916 (Le M.); 1 ♀ (genitalia slide 13910); Manaus, xii.1919 (Parish), 1 ♂; Manaus, 18.i.1978, ex Bradypus sp. (R.C. Best), 1 ♀; same locality data but dated 23.i.1978, 1 ♀; ditto 28.i.1978, 2 ♀; ditto 19.ii.1978, 1 ♀; ditto 26.iii.1978, 1 ♀; ditto 27.iii.1978, 4 ♀, 2 ♀; ditto 28.iii.1978, 2 ♀; ditto 12.iv.1978, 3 ♀ (genitalia slide 13886), 3 ♀ (genitalia slide 13890); Belém, 21.vi.1978, ex Bradypus sp. (R.C. Best), 3 ♀ (genitalia slide 13888), 4 ♀ (genitalia slides 13892, 13934); Rio Japurá, Lago Amânã, 2.ix.1979, at light (R.C. Best), 2 ♀; same locality data but dated 10.ix.1979, 3 ♀. Holotype and 46 paratypes deposited in the British Museum (Natural History); 17 paratypes in the Museum of Zoology of the University, São Paulo, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, and Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus.

**COMMENTS AND DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES**

The imago of *C. waagei* is superficially very similar but on average smaller than that of *C. choloepi* Dyar; the male of the latter can have a wingspan of as little as 13 mm but is more often nearer 15-17 mm, while the female can reach 24 mm. Both species have a forewing pattern consisting of radiating longitudinal streaks, but *C. waagei* is distinguished by the well-defined subterminal band which in *C. choloepi* is poorly defined and hardly determinate in the male and obliterated in the female, and by the distinct light-coloured costal margin of the forewing which in *C. choloepi* is suffused with brown. *C. rufipictus* differs markedly from both species in having antemedian and postmedian transverse lines on the forewing in lieu of the longitudinal streaks and subterminal band of the other two species.

**VENATION**

(Figs. 10-15)

In both *C. waagei* (Figs. 10, 11) and *C. rufipictus* (Figs. 12, 13) vein 11 of the forewing is absent in the male but present in the female, similarly as in *C. choloepi* (Figs. 14, 15). In *C. waagei* and *C. choloepi* veins 3, 4 and 5 of the forewing are stalked in both sexes, but in *C. rufipictus* they are stalked in the female only and are either connate or closely approximate in the male. In the hindwing, the stalking of veins 7 and 8 varies in all three species but the stalk is usually longer in *C. choloepi*.

**MALE GENITALIA**

The comparatively short valva and prominent tooth-like projection from the inner margin of the sacculus distinguish *C. waagei* from *C. rufipictus*. In *C. choloepi* the valva is comparatively short as in *C. waagei* but differs in having the distal margin distinctly rounded rather than truncate, and although the sacculus reaches to near the middle of the ventral margin as in *C. waagei* it lacks the tooth-like projection. The short plate-like sacculus distinguishes *C. rufipictus* from the other two species. In both *C. waagei* and *C. rufipictus* the uncus is simple and sparsely setose, but in *C. choloepi* it is bifurcate and densely setose apically.

Two new...
Figs. 10-17 — Wing venation: 10, Cryptoses waagei sp. n., ♂; 11, C. waagei sp. n., ♀; 12, Cryptoses rufipictus sp. n., ♂; 13, C. rufipictus sp. n., ♀; 14, Cryptoses choloepi Dyar, ♂; 15, C. choloepi Dyar, ♀; 16, Bradytophila garbei Ihering, ♂; 17, Bradypodicola hahneli Spuler, ♂.
FEMALE GENITALIA

The structure of the female genitalia in all three species is very similar and differences are mainly comparative. In C. choloepi the eighth sternite is relatively short and is less well sclerotized than in the other two species; the ostium is membranous and circular as in C. rufipictus but is relatively larger. C. waagei differs from both species by its broader, ovate ostium.

OTHER CHRYSAUGINAE ASSOCIATED WITH TREE SLOTHS

Two further chrysaugine species, Bradyphila garbei Ihering and Bradypodicola hahneli Spuler, are known to live in association with tree sloths in Brazil and adjacent countries in South America. The imagos of both species come within the size-range of the three Cryptoses species but can be distinguished by the following characters.

B. garbei is distinctive by its almost unicolorous dark ochreous forewings, which lack the markings found in Cryptoses. The wing venation (Fig. 16) is reduced and simplified, vein 2 being absent in the forewing and the stalk of veins 7 and 8 anastomosing with vein 6 in the hindwing. As in the genus Cryptoses, vein 11 of the forewing is absent in the male but present in the female.

B. hahneli differs from all the species mentioned above by its almost unicolorous dark fuscous forewings, the coloration being distinctly more blackish than in B. garbei. A distinctive feature of B. hahneli is the compressed form of the head, the frons of which is flattened and receding and the vertex prominent; in Cryptoses and Bradypophila the frons is convex and the vertex is not prominent.

In both B. hahneli and B. garbei the proboscis is shorter than in Cryptoses and is less extensively scaled at the base and the labial palpi are comparatively rough-scaled and droop more or less straight downwards. In Cryptoses the proboscis is very long and the basal portion is extensively scaled, the labial palpi appear slender, the scales being appressed, and the palpi are held in a declivent, porrect or slightly recurved position.

As a result of examining extensive sloth-moth material it has become apparent that, in contrast to the virtually pristine condition of captured imagos of Cryptoses and B. garbei, specimens of B. hahneli are often worn and the extremities of the wings sometimes tattered. It seems that the outer margins and fringes of the wings of this species may be weak and thinly scaled and that they could be damaged by movement through the fur of the sloth.

The male genitalia and wing venations of B. garbei and B. hahneli are illustrated by Lima (1949).

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RESUMO

Duas espécies de mariposas da família Chrysauginae, descobertas pelos estudos ecológicos da preguiça e seus ectoparasitas no Brasil, são descritas como novas e são denominadas, Cryptoses waagei sp. n. e C. rufipictus sp. n. Estas são diferenciadas da única outra espécie deste gênero, C. choloepi Dyar e das espécies afins, Bradypophila garbei Ihering e Bradypodicola hahneli Spuler que também são encontrados nas preguiças.
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