

Two new species of *Americerura* St. Laurent & Goldstein, 2023 from Brazil (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae, Cerurinae)

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Abstract

Ten species of *Americerura* St. Laurent & Goldstein, 2023 are represented in Brazil: *A. annulifera* (Berg, 1878), *A. argynnis* (Schaus, 1901), *A. dandon* (Druce, 1894), *A. lancea* (Schaus, 1905), *A. purusa* (Schaus, 1928), *A. rarata* (Walker, 1865), *A. rivera* (Schaus, 1901) and *A. splendens* (Jones, 1908), and two described here: *A. kalyae* Becker, sp. nov. and *A. minor* Becker, sp. nov.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Notodontidae, Cerurinae, *Americerura*, *Cerura*, *Tecmessa*, new species, Neotropical, Brazil.

Dos nuevas especies de *Americerura* St. Laurent & Goldstein, 2023 de Brasil (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae, Cerurinae)

Resumen

Diez especies de *Americerura* St. Laurent & Goldstein, 2023 están representadas en Brasil: *A. annulifera* (Berg, 1878), *A. argynnis* (Schaus, 1901), *A. dandon* (Druce, 1894), *A. lancea* (Schaus, 1905), *A. purusa* (Schaus, 1928), *A. rarata* (Walker, 1865), *A. rivera* (Schaus, 1901) y *A. splendens* (Jones, 1908) y dos descritas aquí: *A. kalyae* Becker, sp. nov. y *A. minor* Becker, sp. nov.

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, Notodontidae, Cerurinae, *Americerura*, *Cerura*, *Tecmessa*, especies nuevas, Neotropical, Brasil.

Duas novas espécies de *Americerura* St. Laurent & Goldstein, 2023 do Brasil (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae, Cerurinae)

Resumo

Dez espécies de *Americerura* St. Laurent & Goldstein, 2023 estão representadas no Brasil: *A. annulifera* (Berg, 1878), *A. argynnis* (Schaus, 1901), *A. dandon* (Druce, 1894), *A. lancea* (Schaus, 1905), *A. purusa* (Schaus, 1928), *A. rivera* (Schaus, 1901), *A. rarata* (Walker, 1865), *A. splendens* (Jones, 1908), e duas descritas aqui: *A. kalyae* Becker, sp. nov. e *A. minor* Becker, sp. nov.

Palavras-chave: Lepidoptera, Notodontidae, Cerurinae, *Americerura*, *Cerura*, *Tecmessa*, espécies novas, Neotropical, Brasil.

Introduction

Americerura St. Laurent & Goldstein (2023, p. 10) was proposed to accommodate 17 species

formerly included in *Tecmessa* Burmeister, 1878 (Becker, 2014, p. 220), eight of them recorded from Brazil: *A. annulifera* (Berg, 1878), *A. argynnis* (Schaus, 1901), *A. dandon* (Druce, 1894), *A. lancea* (Schaus, 1905), *A. purusa* (Schaus, 1928), *A. ravata* (Walker, 1865), *A. rivera* (Schaus, 1901) and *A. splendens* (Jones, 1908). Of these, four: *A. argynnis* (Schaus), *A. purusa* (Schaus), *A. rivera* (Schaus) and *A. splendens* (Jones) were originally described from Brazil. In the author's collection there are 10 species collected in Brazil, two of them undescribed, which are the subject of this article.

Material and methods

This review is based on 195 specimens, 47 genitalia slides (g. s.) in the author's collection in Camacã, Bahia, Brazil (VOB) and on the type-material deposited in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC., USA (USNM), the Natural History Museum, United Kingdom (NHMUK) and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA (CMNH). The holotypes of the new species are provisionally deposited in VOB, and will be transferred, together with the collection, to a Brazilian institution in the future. Genitalia were prepared following the methods described by Robinson (1976). Terms for morphological characters follow Hodges (1971).

Results and discussion

Examination of the material in the author's collection revealed that nine species are represented in Brazil, two of them new, described as follows.

Americerura kalyae Becker, sp. nov. (Figures 1, 4-6)

Holotype ♂, BRAZIL, Santa Catarina, Bom Jardim da Serra, 1500 m, 1-4-X-1996, g. s. 6126 (Becker 108217) (VOB).

Diagnosis: White. Forewings silvery white with postmedial band and subterminal line interrupted: the first represented by four small, black rings, filled yellow, disposed as an oblique line from lower angle of cell to dorsum, towards base; the second by an irregular patch, with small yellow lunules between veins, on costa before apex, interrupted to M3, followed by two lunules to CuA2.

Description (Figure 1): Male forewing length 20 mm (45 mm wingspan). White. Labial palpus black. Frons white, edged black. Antenna with scape and basal half of flagellum white, pectination and distal half black. Thorax with anterior margin black. Legs white, with coxae and tarsi black, ringed white on articulations. Forewing silvery white, four small, irregular dots along costa; small black ring, filled yellow at basal angle of cell; postmedial band interrupted, represented by two small lunules on costa, and four small, black, filled yellow rings oriented as an oblique line, from lower angle of cell, to dorsum, towards base; subterminal band represented by an irregular black patch, filled with yellow lunules, from costa to M2, interrupted to M3, followed by two lunules in the vein interspaces between M3 and CuA2; termen with diminute, black dots between veins, along margin. Hind wings wholly white. Abdomen white, with three pairs of small, black dots ventrally, on segments 4-6; 8th sternite (Figure 6) a large, thick M-shape structure, with a thin, elongate projection medially. Female unknown.

Male genitalia (Figure 4): Uncus as long as wide at base, narrowing gradually towards apex; socii thinner than uncus. Valva short and broad, apex blunt, distal margin slightly excurved, costa sinuous, ventral margin evenly curved, sacculus half as long as valva, excurved ventrally. Juxta a transverse plate, narrowing to both sides. Vinculum thick, slightly curved medially. Phallus (Figure 5) short: twice as long as thick, expanded towards a sharp pointed apex, vesica densely covered with thin spines.

Distribution: Brazil, South, from the type-locality only, at high elevations, in the Araucaria Forest biome.

Etymology: Named after Kalya Koltès, Switzerland, for her generous contribution to protect the Serra Bonita Reserve.

Remarks: The only species of *Americerura* with abdomen wholly white dorsally.

***Americerura minor* Becker, sp. nov.** (Figures 2, 3, 7-10)

Holotype ♂, BRAZIL, Maranhão, Feira Nova, Faz. Retiro, 07°00'S-46°26'W, 480 m, 1-3-XII-2011, g. s. 5197 (Becker 148140) (VOB). Paratypes: 2 ♀♀, same locality as holotype, 10-11-II-2008; 1-3-XII-2011, g. s. 6127 (C. Mielke) (Becker 148140, VOB 74116) (VOB).

Diagnosis: White. Male fore wing length 12 mm (28 mm wingspan), female 14-15 mm (33-35 mm wingspan) crossed with dotted black lines, hind wings grey with blackish veins.

Description: Male (Figure 2) white. Labial palpi and frons margins black. Antenna with scape white, flagellum white, ringed black. Thorax with patagia and three pairs of small dots, black. Legs white, distal articulation of tibia, and tarsi ringed black. Forewing silvery white, a series of seven irregular, small black marks; a pair of small, black dots at base; antemedial, postmedial bands, and subterminal line irregular, diffuse, crossing from costa to dorsum [somewhat descaled]; orbicular spot touching both margins of veins; termen with small, contrasting black dots in vein interspaces along termen. Hind wing white, with a grey patch at apex, and five little blackish dots along termen, in vein interspaces: three below apex, two before tornus. Abdomen dark grey dorsally, with two white fasciae along ventral side; 8th sternite (Figure 9) an M-shape structure with lateral arms thin, medial process a short, blunt triangle. Female (Figure 3), with dots and lines heavily marked. Hind wings gray, veins contrastingly blackish; cilia white.

Male genitalia (Figure 7): Uncus and socii almost the same length, socii thinner than uncus. Valva three times longer than wide, costa straight, apex round, ventral margin evenly curved. Juxta a wide V-shape structure. Vinculum thin, shallowly incised medially. Phallus (Figure 8) nearly straight, strongly curved basally, narrowing gradually towards a sharp pointed apex.

Female genitalia (Figure 10): Ostium bursae narrow; ductus bursae shorter than corpus bursae diameter; corpus bursae spherical; signa a pair of small, irregular, sclerotized plates, opposite each other (as the abdomen was somewhat rotten, it was not possible to clean it properly).

Distribution: Brazil, North, from the type-locality only, in the Cerrado Biome.

Etymology: From the Latin *minor* = little, less.

Remarks: The smallest of the *Americerura* species.

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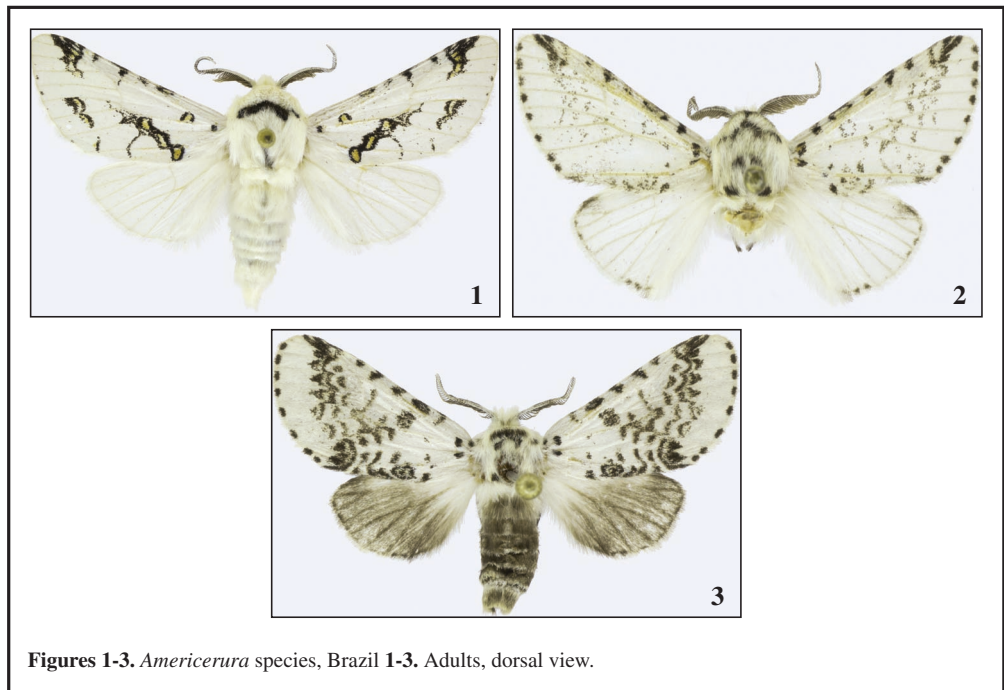
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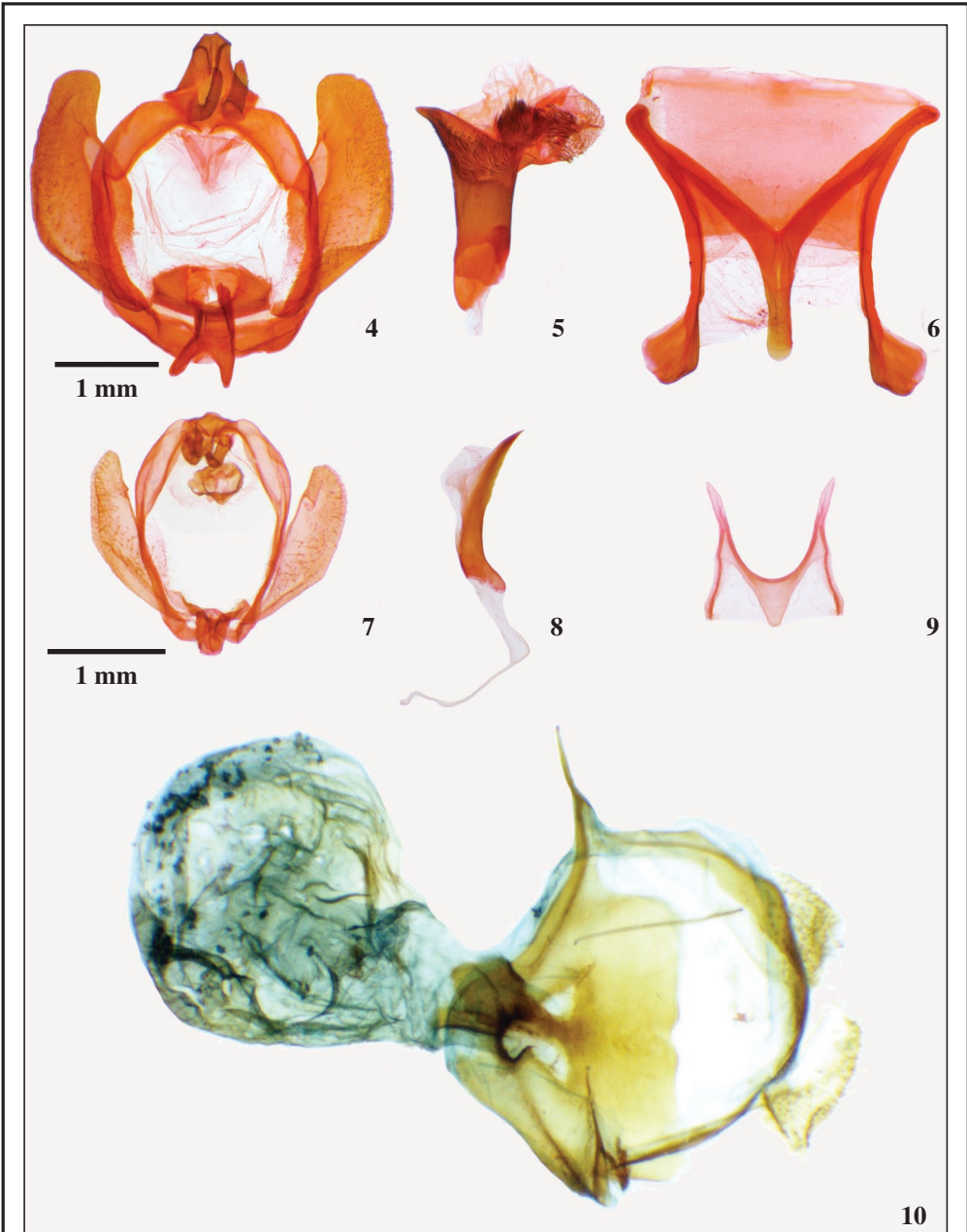
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Figures 1-3. *Americerura* species, Brazil 1-3. Adults, dorsal view.

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Figures 4-10. 4-9. Male genitalia and 8th abdominal sternite. 1. *A. kalyae*, holotype male. 2, 3. *A. minor*: 2. Holotype male; 3. Paratype female. 4-6. *A. kalyae*, holotype male: 4. Genitalia, ventral view; 5. Phallus, lateral view; 6. 8th sternite, ventral view. 7-10. *A. minor*: 7. Genitalia, holotype male, ventral view; 8. Phallus, holotype male, lateral view; 9. 8th sternite, holotype male, ventral view; 10. Genitalia, female paratype, ventral view.