

Description of the female of *Aphomia murciella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae: Galleriinae)

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Abstract. *Aphomia murciella* (Zerny, 1914) was described from several males originating from Murcia and it is known only from the Spanish mainland. Based on recent series from Andalucia, a female is described here for the first time. Photographs of adults as well as genitalia of both sexes are provided.

Key words. Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, Galleriinae, *Aphomia murciella*, female, Spain, Palearctic Region

Introduction

The original description of *Aphomia murciella* (Zerny, 1914) is based on seven males collected in 1909 in the Sierra Espuña Mountains, Murcia province, Spain (ZERNY 1914). The type specimens and another male originating from Alfacer (Spain: prov. Granada) are deposited in the Natural History Museum, Vienna. So far, the only published findings refer to the material mentioned above (SLAMKA 2006). Male genitalia of *A. murciella* were first drawn by WHALLEY (1964) and recently published by SLAMKA (2006). Photographs of type adults were provided in the original description (ZERNY 1914) and later also by WHALLEY (1964) and SLAMKA (2006). A series of *A. murciella* containing specimens of both sexes from Andalucia, Spain, allowed me to describe the female here.

Material and methods

The presented material has been caught at light (UVA fluorescent tubes 8W) situated on stony slopes (Fig. 13), or beneath a rock overhangs covered with sparse steppe vegetation.

The material examined is deposited in the following collections:

- GEPC Gustav Elsner collection, Praha, Czech Republic;
- JSPC Jan Skyva collection, Praha, Czech Republic;
- NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic.

Results

Aphomia murciella (Zerny, 1914)

(Figs 1–12)

Material examined. SPAIN: ANDALUCIA: Prov. Almeria, Tabernas env., Rambla de Tabernas, 400 m a.s.l., 3.viii.2010, 16 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀, J. Šumpich leg. (NMPC, JSPC, GEPC).

Description of the female (Figs 4–5). Wingspan 18–22 mm, generally larger than in males (17–19 mm). Labial palpi well developed, moderately curved, brownish. Antennae filiform. Coloration of wings similar to males, but generally darker with less contrast markings; black dot in discoidal area less distinct while well visible in males including dark specimens.

Female genitalia (Figs 6–9). Papillae anales very short. Both anterior and posterior apophyses are very long, the ratio of their lengths is approximately 1:1.7. Ostium bursae cup-shaped, membranous, its bottom edge is reinforced with a narrow, strongly sclerotized arc. Antrum moderately sclerotized, fairly broad and slightly conical. Ductus bursae very narrow, delicate, helical towards antrum and slightly expanded to transition into the corpus bursae. Bursa copulatrix pear-shaped, extremely delicate, without signum.

Remarks. The colour pattern of adults from Tabernas is less prominent than in the types (only males), the dark streak from the base of forewings reaching third to half the forewing length and the black spot in the discoidal area is more distinct.

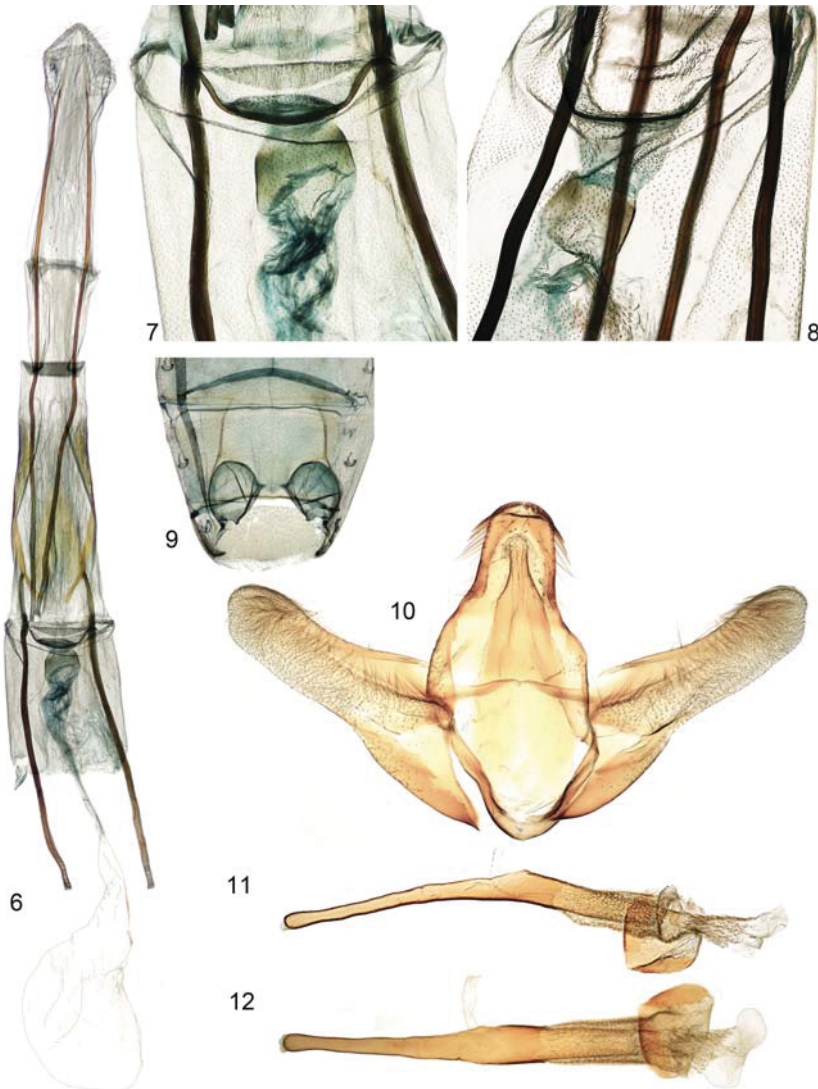
Differential diagnosis. The costal area of *A. murciella* is generally pale compared to other European *Aphomia* species. The female genitalia of *A. murciella* are somewhat similar to those of *Aphomia unicolor* (Staudinger, 1879), but they differ in having both apophyses very long; the ratio of posterior apophyse length to eighth abdominal segment width is 6.2, whilst it is only 1.8 in *A. unicolor*. The worn specimens of *A. murciella* could be mixed with *Corcyra cephalonica* (Stainton, 1866) because of very similar structure of the male genitalia



Figs 1–5. Habitus of *Aphomia murciella* (Zerny, 1914), Tabernas. 1–3 – males (18, 17 and 19 mm); 4–5 – females (20 and 22 mm).

(Figs 10–12). The female genitalia of *A. murciella* differ from *C. cephalonica* significantly in the length and thickness of the ductus bursae (SLAMKA 2006).

Bionomics. The original description does not provide any habitat details. The specimen from Alfacar from 28.vii.1927 was captured at an altitude of 1500 m (SLAMKA 2006). Moths from Tabernas were caught in early August at an altitude of 400 m in an arid locality with sparse vegetation (Fig. 13).



Figs 6–12. Genitalia of *Aphomia murciella* (Zerny, 1914). 6–9 – female genitalia: 6 – general view; 7–8 – detail of ostium area; 9 – abdominal segments I and II. 10–12 – males: 10 – general view; 11–12 – phallus with juxta (11 – lateral view, 12 – dorsal view).



Fig. 13. Habitat of *Aphomia murciella* (Zerny, 1914) near Tabernas.

Distribution. Southern Spain: Murcia (ZERNY 1914), Andalucia (SLAMKA 2006; this paper), and Valencia: Alicante (La Marina, 16.ix.2001, more ♂♂, J. Wolschrijn leg., J. Asselbergs det. (GP 4894), coll. J. Wolschrijn & J. Asselbergs) (J. Asselbergs, pers. comm.).

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