

Buvatina iremella sp. n. (Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae) from the southern Ural Mountains

Jari Junnilainen & Kari Nupponen

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Buvatina iremella sp. n. is described from the southern Ural Mountains. Three male specimens were collected by light from an old taiga forest in the end of June. The main characteristics of the new taxon are long saccus and aedeagus in the male genitalia. The systematic position of the species is shortly discussed.

Jari Junnilainen, Mahlapolku 3, FIN-01730 Vantaa, Finland
Kari Nupponen, Miniatorintie 1 B 9, FIN-02360 Espoo, Finland

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During the summer of 1996, we made an entomological expedition to the easternmost part of the European Russia. In the eastern highlands of the southern Ural Mountains the first author collected three male specimens of an unknown oecophorid moth. Close examination of the genitalia and the wing venation showed that the taxon belongs to the genus *Buvatina*. The fused veins Rs3 + Rs4 on the forewing and the details in the male genitalia such as an elongate saccus and a long aedeagus separate *Buvatina* from closely related genera. The new taxon is described in this paper.

Buvatina iremella sp. n.

Type material. Holotype: ♂ (Fig. 1): Russia, southern Urals, 54°34'N 58°50'E, Cheliabinsk district, Iremel Mountain Reserve, 1 000 m, 25.VI.1996, leg. K. Nupponen, J.-P. Kaitila, J. Junnilainen & M. Ahola. In coll. J. Junnilainen. Paratypes (2♂♂): Same data as holotype, except for dates: 1♂ 24.VI.1996, 1♂ 26.VI.1996. Genitalia slide: J. Junnilainen prep. no. 9703 1304. In coll. T. & K. Nupponen and J.-P. Kaitila. The type specimens can be loaned by request through the Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki or straight from the owners.

Diagnosis. Habitually *B. iremella* cannot be confused with any other species in the genus *Buvatina*. It most resembles *Denisia similella* (Hübner, 1796) and *Denisia stipella* (Linnaeus, 1758), but is easy to separate from both by forewing markings. The male genitalia structure indicates a close relationship to *B. tineiformis*, but differs from that by a very long saccus and aedeagus.

Description. (Fig. 1) Wingspan 10.5–11.5 mm.



Fig. 1. *Buvatina iremella* sp. n. (holotype).

Head: frons and vertex grey with scattered whitish scales; labial palp unicolorous, pale greyish, slightly curved upward, 2.0-2.5X diameter of eye, 2nd and 3rd segments equal in length. Antenna ciliate, slightly serrate and striped. Thorax and abdomen grey. Forewing ground colour fuscous. Markings consist of four yellow spots: elongate basal spot, large spot at 2/5 from base, smaller rounded spot at 3/5 from base and crescent-shaped apical spot. Hindwing fuscous.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2). Uncus short, triangular. Gnathos long, pointed. Valva large without processes, distally tapered, apex rounded. Juxta bifurcate, long and pointed valve, joint to valva. Saccus narrow, 1.3X length of valva. Aedeagus thin, 2X length of valva, straight, apex pointed, cornuti absent.

Female. Unknown.

Bionomy. *B. iremella* is an early species, as specimens collected on 24-26.VI.1996 were already worn. The moth flies late at night and comes to artificial light just before sunrise. The habitat is a virgin taiga forest with dominant old trees such as *Picea abies*, *Larix sibirica* and *Salix caprea*. The taxon appears to be connected to spots with abundant decayed wood. Immature stages remain unknown.

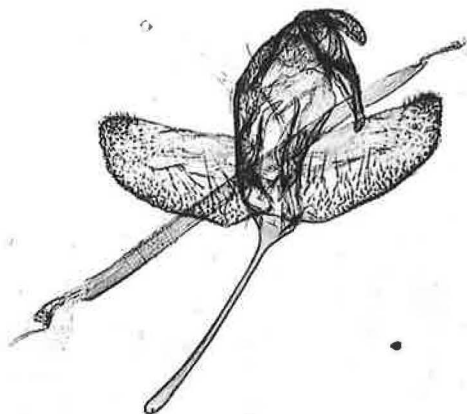


Fig. 2. Male genitalia of *Buvatina iremella* sp. n. (paratype).

Distribution. Only known from the type locality.

Etymology. The species name is derived from the type locality.

Remarks. Leraut (1984) described a new genus *Buvatina*, and *B. tineiformis* Leraut, 1984 as a type species of this genus. Later (Leraut 1989) he transferred two further species to that genus: *Schiffermuelleria stroemella* (Fabricius, 1871) and *S. obscurella* (Brandt, 1937). All these taxa, including *B. iremella*, have fused veins Rs3 + Rs4, as well as characteristics in the male genitalia typical for this genus: long aedeagus and gnathos, elongate saccus and valva without projections. Externally the genus *Buvatina* is divided into two groups by the forewing markings. The forewing is unicolorous, fuscous or grey, in *B. tineiformis* and *B. obscurella*, but covered with distinct yellowish spots in *B. stroemella* and *B. iremella*. The latter group habitually resembles many taxa in the genus *Denisia* Hübner, 1825. However, in this article we do not take up our attitude to the taxonomical problems of Oecophoridae, but follow the systematics used by Leraut (1989) and Lvovsky (1996).

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