

THE GENUS *ALOMPRA* MOORE
(LEPIDOPTERA, LASIOCAMPIDAE)

BY

W. H. T. TAMS, A.L.S., F.R.E.S.

(Published by Permission of the Trustees of the British Museum of Natural History)

The fact that earlier attention has not been drawn to a number of discrepancies in the descriptions and figures of these beautiful moths is not so surprising when one takes account of their apparent scarcity. The total number of specimens available for the present study is 38, and the two published names both refer to *Alompra ferruginea* MOORE, the type of the genus.

ALOMPRA MOORE

Alompra MOORE, Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1872:579.

HAMPSON's generic definition is, for the present, the most useful, and follows:

„Palpi slight and porrect. Antennae with the branches long. Mid and hind tibiae with the spurs very minute. Fore wing broad and elongate; vein 6 stalked with 7 and 8; the stalk of veins 9 and 10 long. Hind wing with veins 4 and 5 stalked; 8 nearly touching 7; two prominent accessory veinlets” (fig. 1).

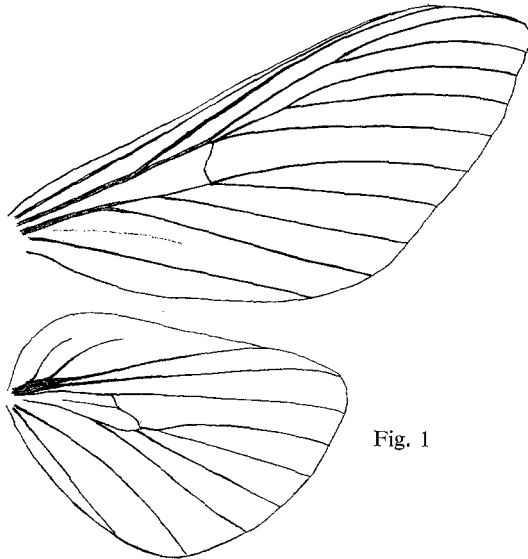


Fig. 1

ALOMPRA FERRUGINEA MOORE

Alompra ferruginea MOORE, Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1872:580, pl. 33, fig. 8 (a very good figure of the ♀). — COTES & SWINHOE, Cat. Moths India 2, 1887: 197. — HAMPSON, Fauna Brit. India 1, 1892: 418, fig. 289 ♀ (not ♂!). — KIRBY, Cat. Lep. Het. 1, 1892:830. — SWINHOE, Cat. Eastern and Australian Lep. Het. 1, 1892:266. — DUDGEON, J. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. 13, 1901: 409. — GRÜNBERG in Seitz, Grossschmett. 10, 1923:402 (pl. 35d, not this species, pl. 35e, not this genus or species).

Taragama indicus CONTE, Rapports du Laboratoire d'Études de la Soie 13, 1909 (1906–1907): 24, pl. 6, fig. 1 (fascicle 6 of Essai de Classification des Lépidoptères producteurs de Soie). — GRÜNBERG in Seitz, Grossschmett. 10, 1923:394. — HAMPSON, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 20, 1910:111 (*Alampra* [sic!]).

Sternum 8 of the typical subspecies is shown in figures 4, 5, and 7, and segment 9, embodying the ♂ genitalia in figure 9, with a separate view of the aedoeagus in figure 10, showing the ventral spine which is not found in the new species *A. roepkei*.

Alompra ferruginea ssp. *bidiensis* subsp. n. (fig. 2).

Similar in appearance to the typical subspecies, (*A. ferruginea ferruginea* MOORE from Assam and Sikkim) but possessing in the ♂ a very different sternum 8, the structure of which is best conveyed by the figure (fig. 11) and a comparison with that of the typical subspecies. A noticeable feature in the Bornean subspecies consists of the two widely separate bosses (= knobs or studs) on the inner surface.

Holotype ♂: Bidi, Sarawak, 1907–1908, C. J. BROOKS.

Alompra ferruginea ssp. *cerastes* subsp. n.

Similar in appearance to the typical subspecies, the darker tones predominating; sternum 8 not longer than wide and bearing two triangular thorn-like projections behind (fig. 12).

Holotype ♂: Surigao, Mindanao, Philippines Islands, August.

This specimen was presented to the United States National Museum by the late B. PRESTON CLARK, and brought here for study by the late Dr W. SCHAUS many years ago.

Alompra roepkei sp. n. (fig. 3).

♂ and ♀. Forewing noticeably triangular, with termen almost at right angles to the inner margin; English red to Brazil red, the fore wing with warm sepia shading between the veins; a black spot near the cell-base, with a curved ante-medial fascia of black spots; hind wing without darker shading.

Holotype ♂ and allotype ♀: Assam.

♂ genitalia (fig. 8) compactly built as in *Alompra ferruginea*; saccus extensive, valves small; valve tridentate with, in addition, a long thin process (? a part of the valve) in front of it, and not to be found in *A. ferruginea*. Sternum 8 strongly sclerotized in front and produced into two long stout arms, wide proximally. (This is the typical subspecies, *A. roepkei roepkei* from Assam) (figs. 6, 13).

Alompra roepkei ssp. *sarotes* subsp. n.

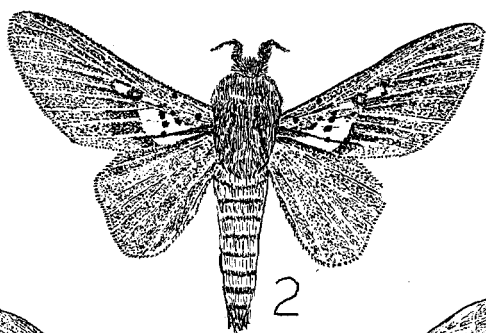
♂. Similar to the typical subspecies, but with sternum 8 having the long arms much less broad at the base, and with the bar joining them much deeper at its middle (fig. 14).

Holotype ♂: Bukit Kutu, Selangor, April 1915.

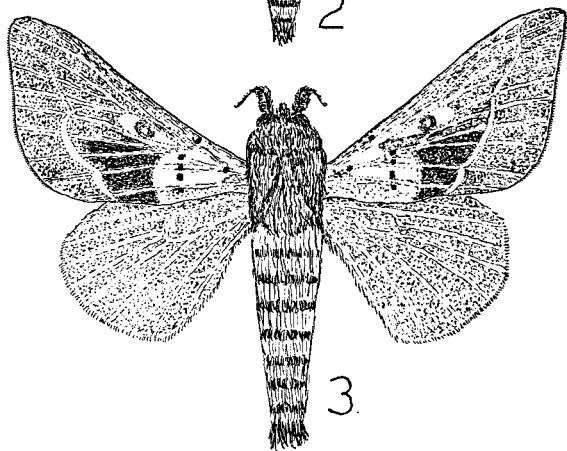
Alompra roepkei ssp. *pella* subsp. n.

♂ and ♀. More dully coloured than the other subspecies, the warm sepia predominating over the English Red. Sternum 8 with arms of more uniform width, the bar joining them of similar even width (fig. 15).

Holotype ♂ and allotype ♀: Upper Palembang district, Sumatra, VÖLCKER.

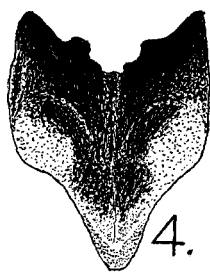


2

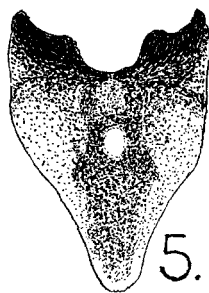


3

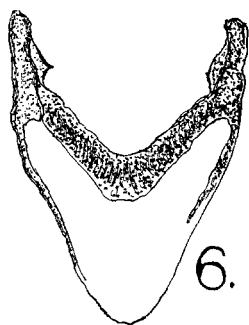
cm. 0 1 2 3



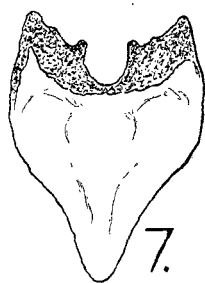
4.



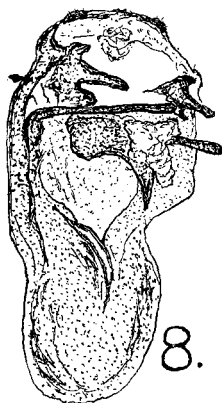
5.



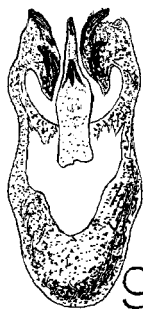
6.



7.



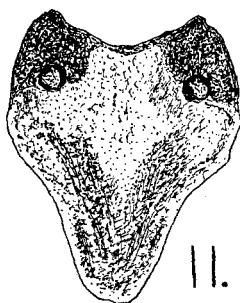
8.



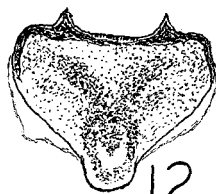
9.



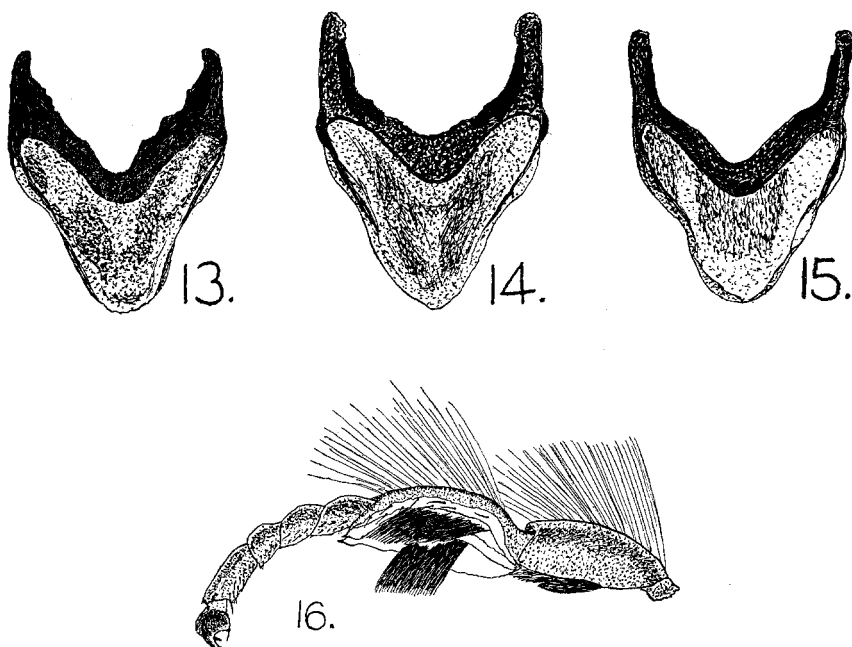
10.



11.



12.



A feature of the females of these moths is the modified first tarsal segment of the fore leg (fig. 16); the body of the segment is swollen, and bears two parallel bunches of blackish hair-scales, which would appear to be the sort of hair-scales used by female moths for covering their eggs during ovipositing. We shall be interested to learn whether this is the case, and I hope these notes will encourage lepidopterists in the Orient to collect and study these moths assiduously.

It gives me great pleasure to name the new species of *Alompra* in honour of my esteemed colleague and friend, Professor W. ROEPKE. The figure on plate 35 d (SEITZ, 1923) supposed to represent a ♀ *A. ferruginea*, in fact depicts *Alompra roepkei*.