

Description of a new genus and species of Metarbelidae (Lepidoptera, Cossioidea) from the Albertine Rift region of Tanzania, East Africa

INGO LEHMANN

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Genus *Bjoernstadia* **gen. nov.** designated as new and its single species *B. kasuluensis* **spec. nov.** is described from Kasulu, northwestern Tanzania, East Africa (Afrotropical Region). Wing pattern and male genitalia of the new species are depicted and notes on the habitat are presented.

Key words: Afrotropical Region, Albertine Rift, *Bjoernstadia* **gen. nov.**, *kasuluensis* **spec. nov.**, taxonomy, revision.

Ingo Lehmann, University of Bonn, Zoological Research Institute and Museum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 160, 53113 Bonn, Germany. E-mail: ingo5.lehmann@googlemail.com

Introduction

Though, no less than 203 species of Metarbelidae belonging to 16 genera are recorded from the Afrotropics (De Prins & De Prins 2012), this group has not received much attention. Lehmann recently discussed the diversity of the family in the Afrotropical Region as well as in Southeast Asia and revised three genera with descriptions of 65 new species from mainland Africa (Lehmann 1997, 2007, 2008a, b, 2010a, b, 2011).

Recent works using molecular methods placed Metarbelidae as one of the seven families of Cossioidea (Regier *et al.* 2009, Mutanen *et al.* 2010, van Nieukerken *et al.* 2011). Cossioidea was found to be a heterogeneous group not forming a monophylum. However, it appears that Metarbelidae share several important morphological characters with Ratardidae, e.g., in having only one strong anal vein on the forewing as well as the deep, 8-shaped ovipositor lobes (Holloway 1986, Edwards *et al.* 1998). The Metarbelidae occur from mainland Africa and Madagascar across southern Arabia to Southeast

Asia (Lehmann 2008b). Several alleged New World *Indarbela* Fletcher, 1922 species belong to the Hypoptinae (Edwards *et al.* 1998). The present studies by the author suggest that the Metarbelidae comprise many more than 400 species in the Afrotropical Region.

The Albertine Rift region includes all areas within 100km east of the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and follows the 900m contour line in eastern DRC, including the protected areas in northern Zambia. The Albertine Rift is recognized as an area of endemism. Although Lepidoptera have been poorly surveyed, if compared to mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants, it has been found that the whole area is rich in a global context. A total of 117 endemic butterfly species from 49 genera are known only from the Albertine Rift (Plumpton *et al.* 2007).

Here and in the frame study of the revision of the Metarbelidae I describe a new genus and one new species based on morphological characters from the Albertine Rift region. This description is based on a single male specimen. Nevertheless, a