

Three new species of *Nepticula* from Gambia (Lep. Nepticulidae)

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At the beginning of December 1970 Conservator Gunnar Johansson, the Swedish Museum of Natural History, spent some time in Gambia. On a trip along the Gambia River on board M/S Lady Wright he collected the insects which had been caught by the flash-light of the ship. Among these were five *Nepticula* specimens, four ♂♂ and one ♀. The males belong to three species new to science. As to the female (fig. 4) I am not sure if it belongs to one of these species or to a separate one. Regarding the morphological characters it belongs to either *mandingella* n.sp. or *wollofella* n.sp. The male genitalia of *gambiana* n.sp. show that the species may belong to the genus *Trifurcula* Zell. according to Beirne (1945) and to *Ectoedemia* Busck according to Braun (1917). The shape of male genitalia of *mandingella* and *wollofella* does not fit into any described genus and these species therefore probably belong to a new one. However, the *Nepticula* species are not yet sufficiently worked out, and therefore I am using the ordinary name *Nepticula*.

Illustrations are drawn by the author. The type specimens are preserved in the collection of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm.

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Nepticula gambiana n.sp.

Alar. exp. ♂ 5 mm. Head and eye-caps pale grey-yellow mixed with fuscous hairs and scales. Antennae light-grey. Groundcolour of forewings pale grey-yellow mixed with grey-yellow scales which have fuscous tips. Hindwings and cilia yellow-grey. Hindlegs silvery-grey with long bristles.

The genitalia (fig. 1): tegumen tapering to a pseuduncus with bristles on the tip, uncus rounded without subuncus, gnathos-arms merging into a rather long, median tongue, ventral arms of transtilla rather long, the valva trian-

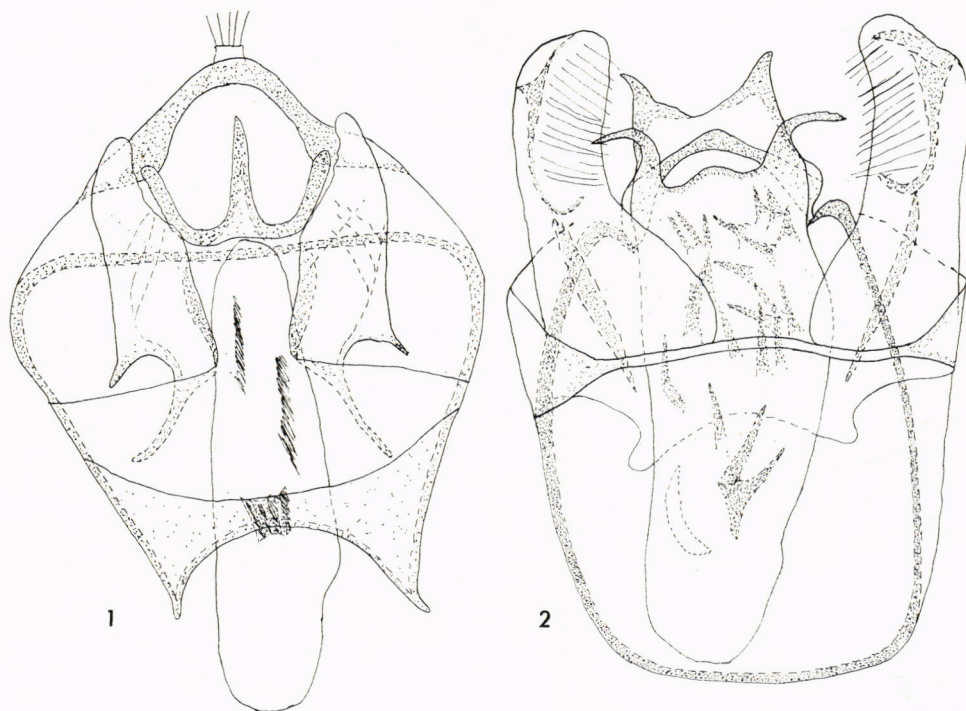


Fig. 1—2. Male genitalia of *Nepticula gambiana* (1) and *Nepticula mandingella* (2).

gular with pointed projection in the middle of ventral margin, saccus narrow, deeply excavated and bluntly rounded at apex, aedeagus four times longer than thick, vesica without cornuti. This species resembles *royenicola* Vari in the shape of the valva and the gnathos-arms.

Holotype ♂ and one paratype ♂ from Gambia River between Bathurst and Basse Santa Su. On riverboat M/S Lady Wright in flash-light, 5.12. 1970. Leg. Gunnar Johansson. Slide no. 4876 holotype, 4875 paratype.

Nepticula mandingella n.sp.

Alar. exp. ♂ 4 mm. Head orange-yellow, eye-caps yellow-white. In the type specimen the antennae are missing. Forewings bronzy brown with metallic gloss, cilia grey. Hindwings and their cilia grey. Hindlegs silvery-grey.

The genitalia (fig. 2): uncus producing two small lateral lobes pointing outwards, gnathos merging into a very short rounding, ventral arms of transtilla short and blunt, the valva subtriangular with rounded base and a pointed projection at the apex, along the whole length of valva a parenthesis-like strengthening in the middle, saccus rather broad, aedeagus about three times longer than thick, at apex with two outwards pointed projections, vesica with a great number of spine-like cornuti.

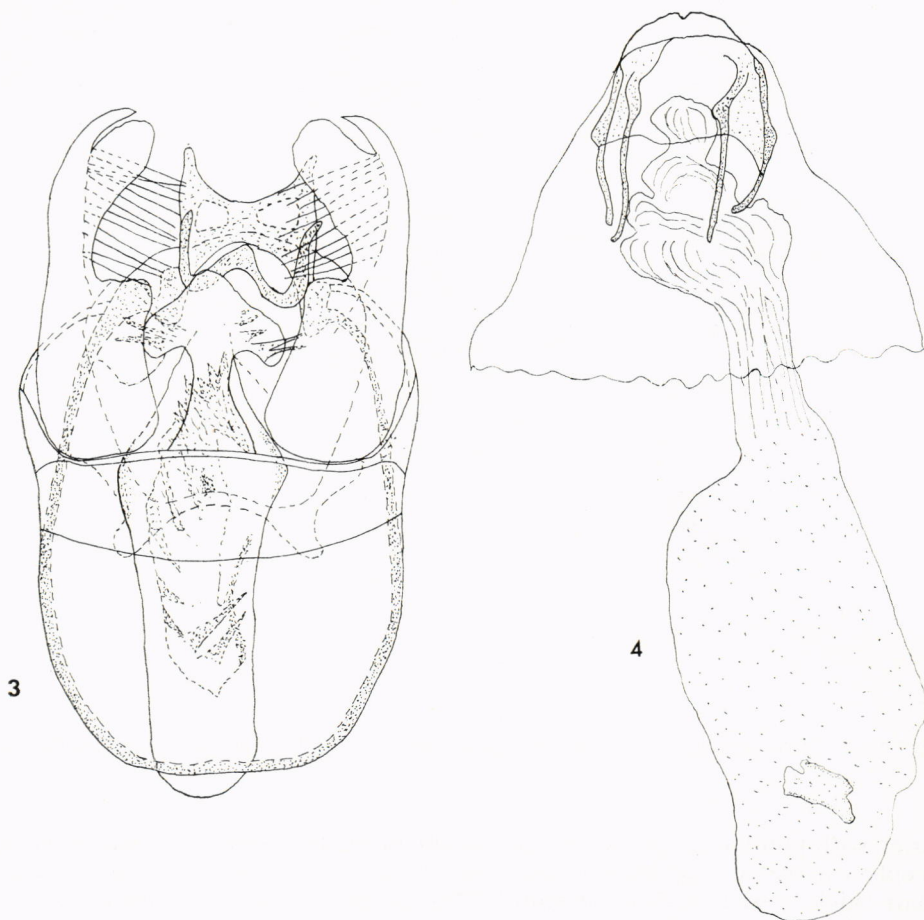


Fig. 3—4. Male genitalia of *Nepticula wollofella* (3) and female genitalia of *Nepticula* ? (4).

Holotype ♂ from Gambia River between Bathurst and Basse Santa Su. On riverboat M/S Lady Wright in flash-light, 5.12.1970. Leg. Gunnar Johansson. Slide no. 4874.

Nepticula wollofella n.sp.

Alar. exp. ♂ 4 mm. A very damaged specimen. Head orange-yellow, eye-caps yellow-white. Antennae and forewings bronzy brown with metallic gloss, cilia dark grey. Hindwings and their cilia grey. Hindlegs silvery-grey with rather long bristles.

The genitalia (fig. 3): uncus producing two small bluntly pointed lateral lobes, gnathos-arms merging into a rather short median tongue, ventral arms of transtilla short and blunt, valva divided into a distinct style and cuiller,

saccus rather broad, aedeagus about four times longer than thick, vesica with a great number of spine-like cornuti.

Holotype ♂ from Gambia River between Bathurst and Basse Santa Su. On riverboat M/S Lady Wright in flash-light, 5.12.1970. Leg. Gunnar Johansson. Slide no. 5103.

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