Pyraloidea specimens labelled as Rebel types from Egypt at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

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Abstract. The Anastase Alfieri collection from Egypt, acquired by the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., in 1965, included 5 pyraloid specimens labelled as types described by Rebel (1927): Piletocera opacalis, Pseudosyria gracilis, Heterographis acrobasella, Acrobasis pumillella, and Trachypteryx acanthotecta. The specimens are figured and the nomenclatural status of each species in the literature is described. There is a specimen of T. acanthotecta labelled as holotype in the USNM, but this was not been designated in the original description; and the subsequently designated lectotype is located at the Natural History Museum in Vienna. The following biological data is available: Pseudosyria gracilis eclosed from a stem of Lavandula pubescens (Lamiaceae) as indicated on the label data; and T. acanthotecta eclosed from a case on Acacia tortilis (Forssk.) Hayne (Fabaceae) as stated in the original description. Information about these specimens is provided to the lepidopterists’ community for utilization in future systematic research. Types are not designated.

Key words. Pyraloidea, type depository, Anastase Alfieri, Egypt, host plant records, nomenclatural changes, type status.

Introduction

Rebel (1927) described many new Egyptian Microlepidoptera species from the collections of Adolf Andres and Anastase Alfieri. In 1965 the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. acquired the insect collection of Anastase Alfieri, who was with the Ministry of Egyptian Agriculture. The Alfieri collection included 5 pyraloid specimens labelled as types. None of the handwriting on the labels resemble the reproduction of a Rebel label presented by Horn et al. (1990: pl. 26 fig. 20).

Rebel (1927) stated that voucher specimens were deposited in the Alfieri collection in Cairo and the Natural History Museum in Vienna (NHMW). According to Horn et al. (1990) the Coleoptera of the Alfieri collection is said to be at the Museum Frey in Tutzing near Munich (now Basel), and no mention is made of the Lepidoptera collection. Presumably the pyraloid specimens came to the United States long before the publication of Horn et al. (1990). The Alfieri collection has long since been incorporated into the main USNM Lepidoptera collection.

These five specimens labelled as types are figured here and the text of the labels is given to inform the Lepidoptera community that they are deposited at the National Museum of Natural History for confirmation and utilization in future systematic research. The current nomenclatural status of each species group taxon is given according to published data, and further determination is left for researchers con-
ducting revisionary work on these taxa. The nomenclatural status of the specimens considered is not determined nor designated herein. For unresolved type problems concerning Rebel species descriptions, future workers should examine the Pyraloidea material of both, the Natural History Museum in Vienna and the National Museum of Natural History in Washington.
Results

Crambidae: Spilomelinae

*Piletocera opacalis* Rebel, 1927:186–187 (Fig. 1). The original description states “Drei Stücke, davon eines mit Bezeichnung Bacos (Andres)” (three specimens of which one is labelled “Bacos”), and does not state the sex of the specimens upon which the name of the species is based; the specimen figured here is a female. Text of labels: “Sakka, at | camp, 10.11.22” (handwritten with black ink on beige paper); “Coll. Alfieri | Egypte” (printed with black ink on beige paper); “*Philitocera* [sic] | *opacalis* n. sp | DET. REBEL, TYPE” (handwritten and “DET. REBEL” printed with black ink on beige paper); “Anastase Alfieri | Collection | 1965” (printed with black ink on white paper with a broad red stripe on the bottom half of the label).

Pyralidae: Phycitinae

*Pseudosyria gracilis* Rebel, 1927:180–182 (Fig. 2). The original description gives the following information: Two male specimens from “Wadi Hof 19.iii.[19]15”; the specimen figured here is a male. A lectotype was designated by Roesler (1973: 661) and deposited at the Natural History Museum Vienna, so the specimen figured here is a paralectotype. Roesler (1973) synonymized *Pseudosyria* with *Pempelia* Hübner and *gracilis* with *malacella* (Staudinger, 1870: 196). Leraut (2001: 141), after study of the genitalia of *malacella*, resurrected *Pseudosyria* from synonymy declaring it a valid genus. Text of labels: “Eclos 22.4.18 de tiges de | *Lavandula pubescens* | de Wadi Abu Gufan | (Ougret [sic] Sheik) 29.3.18” (handwritten with black ink on beige paper); “Coll. Alfieri | Egypte” (printed with black ink on beige paper); “*PSEUDOSYRIA* nov. gen | *gracilis* n. sp. | DET REBEL | TYPE” (handwritten and “DET. REBEL” printed with black ink on beige paper); Anastase Alfieri | Collection | 1965” (printed with black ink on white paper with a broad red stripe on the bottom half of the label). The label information states that the specimen eclosed from a stem of *Lavandula pubescens*.

*Heterographis acrobasella* Rebel, 1927:182–183 (Fig. 3). The original description gives the following information: “Nur ein Männchen mit der Bezeichnung” [only one male with data]: Ramleh (Palais), 5 [sic] Septembre 1921,” and indicates with a symbol that the type is a male; but the specimen figured in this paper is a female. Roesler (1973: 659–660) placed *acrobasella* in *Acrobasopsis* Amsel, 1958 and synonymized *Acrobasopsis talhouki* Amsel, 1958 with *Acrobasopsis acrobasella* (Rebel, 1927). Roesler (1973: 659) mentioned that the type is in The Natural History Museum Vienna, but that specimen is also a female and bears exactly the same label data (including 15[sic].9.21). Text of labels: “*Ramleh (Palais) / 15.9.21*” (handwritten with black ink on beige paper); Coll. Alfieri | Egypte (printed with black ink on beige paper); “*Heterographis* | *acrobasella* n. sp. | DET REBEL | TYPE” (handwritten and “DET. REBEL” printed with black ink on beige paper); Anastase Alfieri | Collection | 1965” (printed with black ink on white paper with a broad red stripe on the bottom half of the label).
Acrobasis pumilella Rebel, 1927: 185–186 (Fig. 4). The original description gives the following information: 1 male, indicated with a symbol and stated in the text, from “Ramleh Palais 15 August 1921”; the specimen figured here is a female. This species has not been treated in the literature (i.e. Roesler 1973, 1993). If no type specimen is found at the Natural History Museum in Vienna, this specimen should be investigated as a possible type specimen in a future study. Text of labels: “Ramleh (Palais) / 15.9.21” (handwritten with black ink on beige paper); Coll. Alfieri | Egypte” (printed with black ink on beige paper); “Acrobasis | puminella [sic] n. sp. | DET REBEL, TYPE” (handwritten and “DET. REBEL” printed with black ink on beige paper); “Anastase Alfieri | Collection | 1965” (printed with black ink on white paper with a broad red stripe on the bottom half of the label).

Trachypteryx acanthotecta Rebel, 1927: 183–185 (Fig. 5). The original description gives the information on the type specimens as “éclos 11.IV.26 (♀), 2.V.26 (♂), de fourreaux sur Acacia tortilis du Galala, 1–4.III.26 und ein grosses gefangenes ♀ mit der Bezeichnung „Sud-Sinai, près Wadi Isla, 27.III.1924“ vor.” [eclosed 11.IV.26 (♀), 2.V.26 (♂), from cases on Acacia tortilis from Galala, 1–4.III.1926 and one large female collected in South Sinai, near Wadi Isla, 27.III.1924]. The biology of this species is described in a separate article by Alfieri (1927). Male and female were indicated by symbols in the original description. The specimen figured here is a female and is probably the latter mentioned above. Roesler (1993: 143) designated a lectotype at the Natural History Museum, Vienna from the two male “syntypes” deposited there. The specimen in the USNM is labelled as the holotype and is probably part of the original type series, but was not designated as a paralectotype subsequently. Text of labels: “Sud SINAI, près | Wadi Isla | 27.3.1924” (handwritten with black ink on beige paper); “Coll. Alfieri | Egypte” (printed with black ink on beige paper); “HOLOTYPE” (handwritten with black ink on dark orange paper); “Anastase Alfieri | Collection | 1965” (printed with black ink on white paper with a broad red stripe on the bottom half of the label).

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References