Revised Supplement To Lepidoptera of North America

14. Geometroidea

Geometridae: Larentiinae: Eupitheciini (Part)



Contributions of the

C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity

Colorado State University

Cover illustration: Eupithecia ravocostaliata Packard, photo by Clifford D. Ferris

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14. Geometroidea

Geometridae: Larentiinae: Eupitheciini (Part)

by

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January 15, 2022

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C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity

Colorado State University

Errata for September 15, 2018 Edition

Page i, line 1. Delete entry. The Abstract was inadvertently omitted. An updated version appears below.

Page viii, correct spelling to read: multiscripta.

Page ix, correct spelling to read: sabulosata.

Page 8, line 6, correct spelling to Packard.

Page 10, first paragraph. *Eupithecia chlorofasciata* Dietze was omitted in the list of species not included.

Plate 5, an everted vesica image for *E. placidata* was inadvertently placed instead of the image for *E. longidens*. Plate 241 is the corrected plate. Plate 242 is and updated Plate 24.

Abstract

A review of of the North American species in the Geometridae: Larentiinae: Eupitheciini (*Eupithecia*, *Nasusina*, and *Prorella*) is presented. A series of species plates arranged in phylogenetic order follows a limited discussion of this group. Each plate illustrates both sexes (when known) of the adult moths and their associated genitalia. Minimal accompanying text provides the following information: literature citation for the original description; type locality; location of the type; biology when known with flight period; geographic distribution; and key diagnostic characters. A comprehensive annotated bibliography is included. The 2018 edition includes ix + 22 pp. + 191 plates and will not be revised.

This Revised Supplement provides 48 additional plates with associated text as appropriate, and replaces the previous 2019 Supplement. Two new species from New Mexico are described: *Eupithecia vargoi* and *E. longispinata*. The additional plates are not in phylogenetic order, but in sequence as the associated specimens were obtained, dissected and photographed.

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Introductory Notes

Rather than revising the 2018 monograph, which would require reorganization of plate numbers and other editorial changes, it was decided in 2019 to issue a Supplement to include new material. Included were 35 new plates arranged in the order in which the additional study material became available. It has now been decided to issue a new Revised Supplement to replace the 2019 publication. There are 16 additional new plates and two new species from New Mexico are described. Thirty-eight *Eupithecia*, two *Nasusina* and one *Prorella* species are now represented.

The new material includes additional plates of species previously presented and the following additional species: *cretata* and *chlorofasciata*, *longispinata* (new species) and *vargoi* (new species). Study material for the following species has yet to be obtained: *Eupithecia pusillata* (see plate 188 in Ferris, 2018 for comments) *litoris, albigrisata, ammonata, olivacea, vitreotata, dichroma, plumasata, succenturiata; <i>Nasusina mendicata; Prorella emmendonia*.

Eupithecia chlorofasciata (Hulst) [Plate 226] was not included in the 2018 edition. No discussion appears in McDunnough's 1949 revision of the Eupithecia. This taxon remains somewhat of an enigma. In his original description, Dietze clearly indicates the green color. He had two specimens from "Georgia." The original description does not indicate a designated holotype, nor is deposition location indicated [see comment from Cassino & Swett, below]. Specimens appear to be rarely collected and museum material is very limited. A male was not available for study when preparing this Supplement. The female genitalia indicate close affiliation with Eupithecia miserulata Grote [Plates 29, 30 in 2018 monograph]. I have been able to examine fresh specimens by photograph, that clearly show the green color suggested by the species name. The green color appears only in specimens collected in the spring and to date at latitudes below 39°N. Under miserulata on the BOLD web site are three photos showing the green coloration. The specimens were collected by Mark Dreiling in the spring in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. It's possible that the green coloration is merely a spring form of *miserulata* in regions where there are two annual generations. More study material is necessary, and

then some careful barcoding work on the *chlorofasciata* phenotype vs. *miserulata*. If *chlorofasciata* clearly codes out as a separate species, then a neotype or lectotype will need to be designated.

In Cassino, S. E. & Swett, L. W., 1922, Some new Geometridae, *The Lepidopterist*, 3(11): 179–180, the authors state:

"A recent letter from Dr. Dietze to the editor says that the type of chlorofasciata has been destroyed by anthrenus, and that it was probably not a Eupithecia. Subvirens, Dr. Deitze says, was probably a chloroclystis. The type of suspiciosata is now in the Zoological Museum in Berlin, and a drawing of it is in the Casino collection.

It may be best to strike subvirens and chlorofasciata from our lists of Eupithecia."

Based on the plate that accompanies the original description of *cholorfasciata*, the moth is clearly a *Eupithecia*. As for *subvirens*, McDunnough (1949, p.553; figs. 14, 15; text fig. 2C genitalia) discussed this species in some detail.

Courtesy of Jim Vargo, a photo of a female *chlorofasciata* is shown below. The green has faded somewhat to yellowish-green. The specimen was collected in Perry Co., Indiana on 15 April, 2013. The genitalia agree with those shown in Plate 226.



Description of Two New Species from New Mexico

During the summer of 2021, two new *Eupithecia* species were discovered respectively in Grant (June) and Otero (August) counties, New Mexico. They are now described.

Eupithecia vargoi, New Species, Ferris, 2022 Plate 235

Diagnosis. In habitus adults this species resemble those of *persimulata* (Plate 54) and *prostrata* (Plate 53). Species separation is by the male genitalia (females are currently unknown). The uncus is simple with a decurved hooked tip, whereas in *persimulata* and *prostrata* the uncus tip is bifid. The inflated vesica of the phallus has a large diverticulum and is more heavily armed with robust spines, differing from the other two species.

Description. *Wings*. Ground color of the wings a medium gray, slightly lighter ventrally. There are three indistinct darker post-median irregular spot-lines on the DFW and two indistinct lines on the DHW. Both wings display a dark discal spot, smaller and less prominent on the HW. The dorsal markings appear ventrally, but muted. *Head*. White scales between the antennae becoming mixed dark gray and white on the frons. Palpi vertically broad, length about 2/3 the eye width, very dark gray centrally with white-tipped scales along the outer edges. Antennae very weakly ciliate. *Legs*. Clothed with almost black, dark gray, and pale grayish-white scales; dark rings at tarsal joints. *Abdomen*. All specimens dissected prior to recording characters. *Male genitalia*. Valves broad and rounded apically. Uncus slender with recurved apical hook. Plate U-shaped, incised to about 60% of the overall length, with basal "flanges." Tines swollen below apical points. Vesica heavily armed as follows: four robust long broad spines, one with an auxiliary narrow brush; one large sickle-like chitinous piece; one small chitinous piece at base. One prominent large broad diverticulum. One smaller and narrow diverticulum.

Type material. This species is described from 3 specimens. The holotype is deposited in the C. P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO. Two paratypes are in the author's collection. The type locality is in the

Black Range, vic. Iron Creek, Hwy. 152, 7200' (2196m), 32.9085N, –107.808W, Grant Co., New Mexico, 10 August, 2021, James T. Vargo collector.

Biology and Distribution. The biology is unknown and the distribution is restricted to the type locality.

Etymology. It gives me pleasure to name this species after Jim Vargo, an indefatigable moth collector who manages to find heretofore unknown species.

Eupithecia longispinata, New Species, Ferris, 2022

Plates 233, 237

Diagnosis: In habitus adults resemble the similar form of *Eupithecia assimilata*, (Plate 96) with the prominent black cell spots and otherwise obscure maculation, but are slightly smaller in wing expanse. The genitalia, however, are totally different. Species separation is by the armature of the male genitalia. There is a prominent and distinctive long and slender slightly curved spine, with a fan of smaller spines at its base. The genitalia of the presumed female are similar to those of *annulata*, (Plate 87) but manifest a chitinous plate in the corpus bursae and a moderately large diverticulum from the fundus.

Description. *Wings*. The ground color is a medium gray-brown. There is DFW prominent black cell spot and a squarish dark spot along the costa above and on either side of the cell spot. The cell spot on the DHW is small but prominent. Additional maculation on both wings is obscure. There is a narrow weak post-median band on the DHW. On the DFW, there is an obscure submarginal row of pale spots between the veins. The fringes are uniformly grayish-brown. The putative females are sightly larger and paler than the males, but otherwise similar. Ventrally the wings are paler in color with the dorsal maculation, such that it is, is reproduced. *Head*. Pale gray scales between and behind antennae, frons brown. Palpi short (< 50% of eye diameter), narrow, delicate, gray with paler tips. *Antennae*. Males, pale brown, essentially simple with ventral short sensilla. Females, simple. *Legs*. Pale grayish-brown scales; tarsi ringed with brown scales. *Thorax*. Dorsally brown. *Abdomen*. First segment pale grayish-brown; segments 2–7 essentially brown; terminal segments pale grayish-brown. *Male genitalia* (Plate 236).

Valves of medium width and rounded apically. Uncus tip bifid with short, closely spaced hooks. Plate roughly X-shaped, widening both anteriorly and basally; incised to midsection; tines of uniform width with sharp apical points; base concave. Vesica armed as follows: one long slender curved spine with fan of five shorter (about 1/4 length of long spine) narrow spines basally; one broad robust pointed spine about 1/3 length of long spine with associated less robust "shadow" spine; one irregular U-shaped chitinous piece about length of the latter; one small chitinous irregular inclusion. One long narrow diverticulum projects from base of the longest spine. *Female genitalia* (Plate 237). Similar to *annulata* (Plate 87), but differing as follows: the inclusion of a large chitinous plate bordered on one side by a vertical row of spines in the corpus bursae; the ductus seminals is more robust; the moderately large diverticulum extends from the bottom of the fundus, rather than from the side; a clear and thick membrane surrounds the corpus bursae; membranous ostium, very short membranous ductus bursae, colliculum lightly sclerotized. Irregular patches of dense spines clothe the corpus bursae.

Type material. This species is described from 8 male specimens. The holotype is deposited in the C. P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO. Two male paratypes are in the author's collection, and five male paratypes are in the James T. Vargo collection. The type locality is 32.808N, –105.649W, 8100' (2500m), Sacremento Mts., Otero Co., New Mexico. *Comment*: No female specimens of *longispinata* were collected with the males at the type locality. Two females were collected at a site west of the type locality and at higher elevation. Collection locality data are shown on Plate 237. Based on habitus, these specimens are presumed to be females of *longispinata*. Because speciation is uncertain, they have not been designated as paratypes.

Biology and Distribution. This moth is apparently a high elevation species. The biology is unknown and the known distribution is restricted to the Sacremento Mts., Otero Co., New Mexico, at elevations above 8000' (2440m). The habitat at the site where the females were collected is shown on the following page.

Etymology. The species name is chosen because of the long spine attached to the vesica of the phallus.



Sacremento Mts., Otero Co., New Mexico habitat, August 26, 2021

Eupithecia longidens kerrvillaria, Cassino & Swett, 1924 Plate 240

This taxon was mentioned briefly in the **Note** on Plate 5. I was recently able to obtain a male specimen and additional distribution data courtesy of Chuck Sexton, Austin, Texas. The male genitalia are consistent with those of *E. longidens* (Plate 241) supporting McDunnough's (1949, p. 549) treatment of *kerrvillaria* as a subspecies of *longidens*. The true placement of *kerrvillaria* remains to be determined by barcoding when additional material becomes available.

The reader should note that an everted vesica image for *E. placidata* was inadvertently placed in Plate 5 instead of the image for *E. longidens*. Plate 241 is a corrected plate to replace the original Plate 5. The other male genitalia components shown are correct, but the images of the capsule and plate have been redone for Plate 241.

The *kerrvillaria* phenotype has now been recorded from 16 counties in Texas (Bandera, Bell, Bexar, Bosque, Comal, Edwards, Gillespie, Hamilton, Hays, Kendall, Kerr [the type locality], Kimble, Mills, Real, Travis, Williamson) and one county in Oklahoma (Cleveland Co.). The known distribution for the moth is central Texas northward to Oklahoma. Adult occurrence is bimodal with an early flight from January to May (peaking in March) and a late flight from August to December (peaking in October). The biology of this moth is unknown, but it inhabits areas dominated by juniper-oak woodlands and savannas.

Acknowledgments

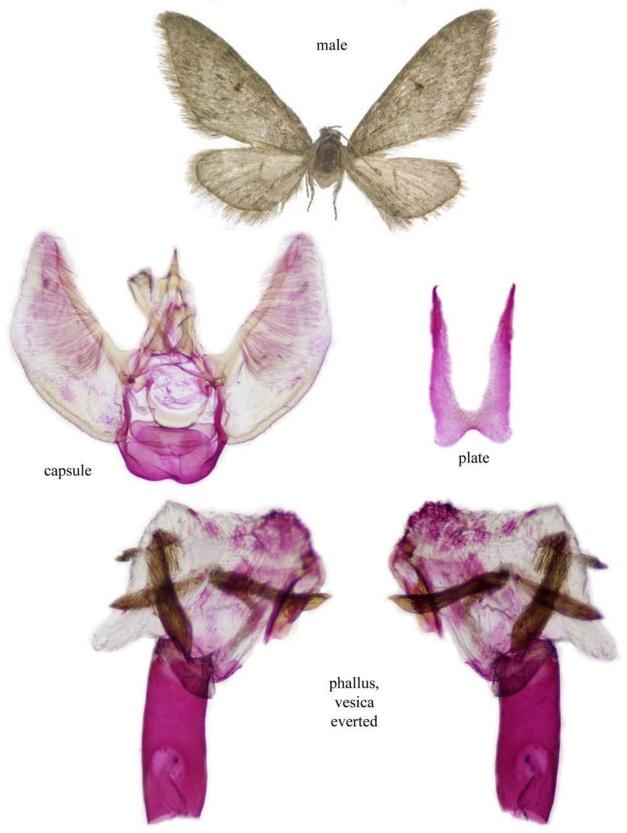
I wish to thank Paul A. Opler (GMAD) who provided specimens for examination, Jim Vargo, Mishawaka, IN for photos and data, and Steve Nanz, Brooklyn, NY for directing me to the Cassino & Swett article. Chuck Sexton, Austin, TX kindly provided Texas material for my examination.

Additional Literature Cited

For those users of this site who might wish to check published original descriptions that appear in older journals, the Biodiversity Heritage Library is an excellent resource: www.biodiversity library.org.

- Dietze, K. von., 1872. Beitrage zur Kenntniss der arten des Genus *Eupithecia* Curt. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* 33:184–204.
- Ferris, C. D., 2018. Lepidoptera of North America 14. Geometroidea, Geometridae: Larentiinae: Eupitheciini (Part). *Contributions of the C. P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Colorado State University.* ix + 22 pp. + 191 plates.
- 2019. Supplement to Lepidoptera of North America 14. Geometroidea, Geometridae: Larentiinae: Eupitheciini (Part). *Contributions of the C. P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Colorado State University.* iii + 22 pp. + 35 plates.
- McDunnough, J. H., 1945. Results from an examination of geometrid types in the Cambridge Museum of Comparative Zoology. *The Canadian Entomologist* 77: 62–68.

Eupithecia matheri Rindge, 1985



Canada, Ontario, Haldimand Co., Cayuga, 3 May, 2018, leg. J. Troubridge.

Eupithecia bryanti Taylor, 1906



Canada, Ontario, Rowan Hills area, 16 June, 2018, leg. J. Troubridge.

Eupithecia strattonata Packard, 1873



Canada, Ontario, Rowan Hills area, 9 August, 2018, leg. J. Troubridge.

Eupithecia sierrae (Hulst, 1896)

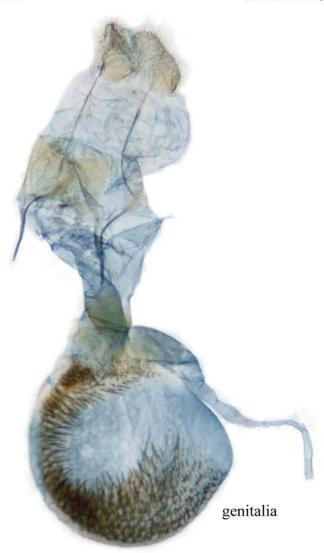
females



Larimer Co., Colorado

J. S. Nordin collector

Coconino Co., Arizona

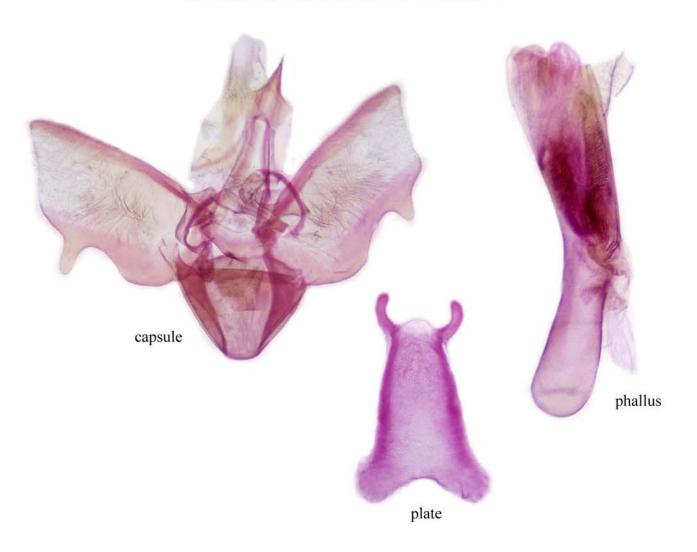


Eupithecia woodgatata (Cassino & Swett)

males



Wyoming, Albany Co., Sherman Hills East of Laramie, 8200'



Eupithecia longidens (Hulst, 1896)

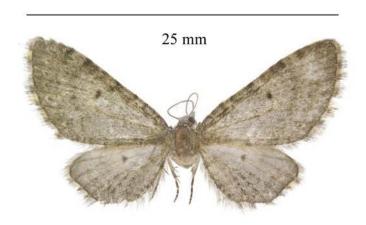
females



Idaho, Bannock Co., 4900', June J. S. Nordin collector



Eupithecia longipalpata Packard, 1876

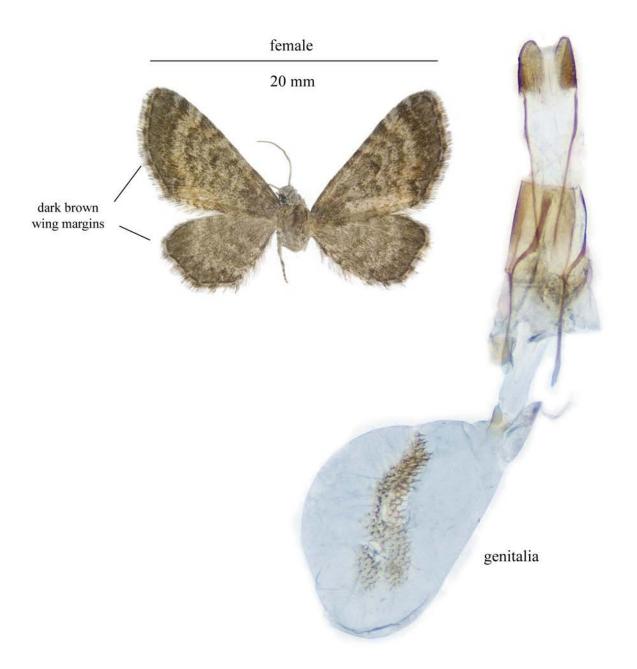


Colorado, Dolores Co., 7800', 28 May, 2000, J. S. Nordin collector



Eupithecia cretata (Hulst, 1896)

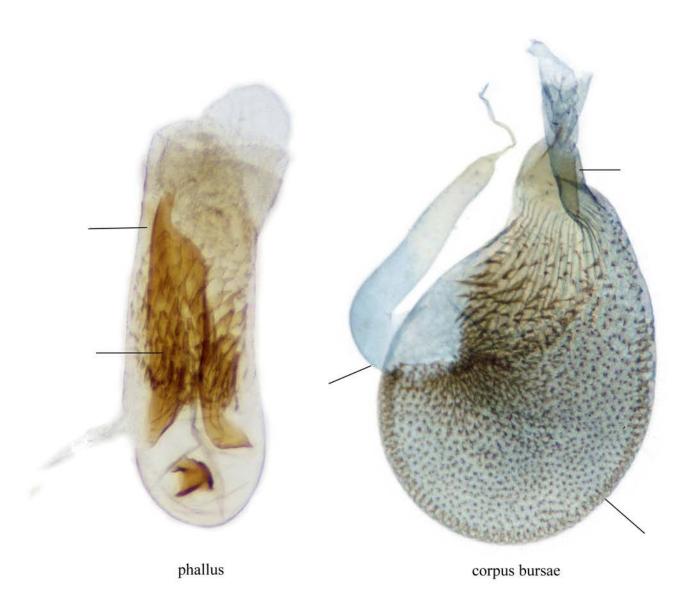
= ? oddly maculated form of *E. coloradensis* (Hulst, 1896)



Eupithecia cretata was described from a single specimen lacking an abdomen and determined by Hulst to be a male. The type locality is "Colorado" and the holotype is in AMNH. McDunnough (1949) illustrated the type as figure 11, Plate 27. McDunnough (p. 571) provided a brief discussion. The specimen illustrated above was collected on a piñon pine hillside in a black light trap by J. S.Nordin in Larimer Co., Colorado along the east side of Hwy. 287, 5900' on 26 May, 2002. The female genitalia are identical to those of E. coloradensis. To my knowledge, the specimen illustrated here is only the second known example of the taxon, which suggests that the moth is a rare or aberrant form of E. coloradensis. The specimen is placed in GMAD.

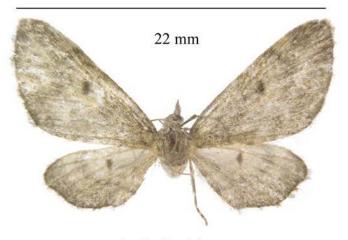
Eupithecia macdunnoughi Rindge, 1952

Enlarged Genitalia Images



Eupithecia maestosa (Hulst, 1896)

female



Apache Co., Arizona



genitalia

J. S. Nordin collector

Eupithecia quakerata Pearsall, 1909

female



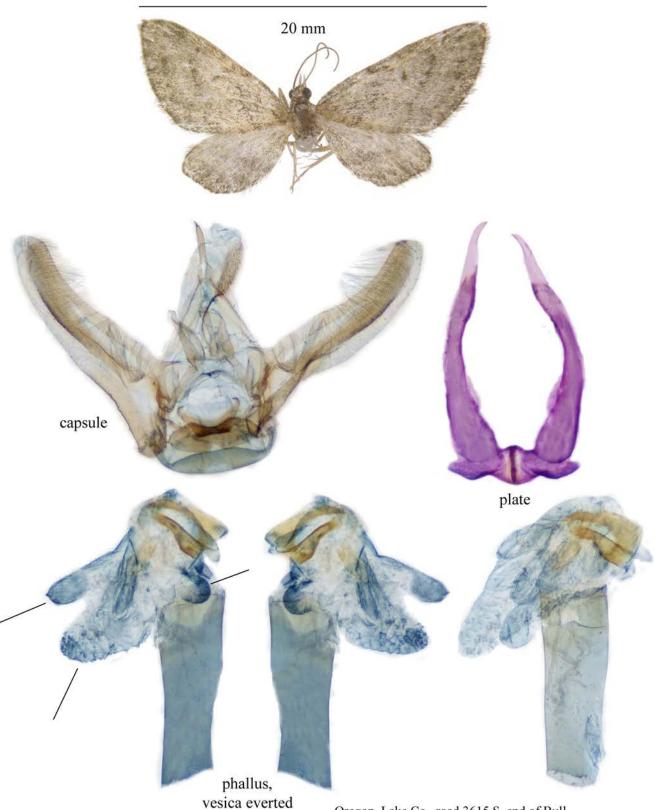
Apache Co., Arizona



J. S. Nordin collector

Eupithecia castellata McDunnough, 1944

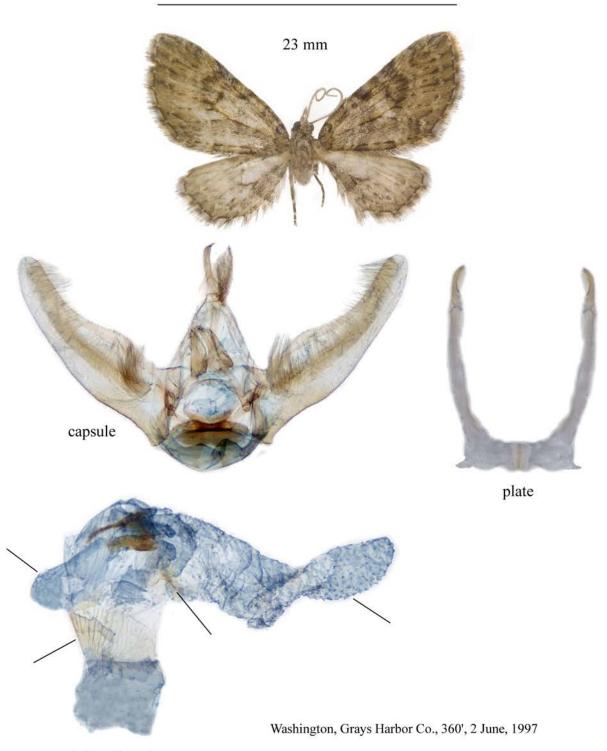
male



Oregon, Lake Co., road 3615 S. end of Bull Prairie, 6800', 3 July, 1981, at black light, leg. J. S. Nordin

Eupithecia longipalpata Packard, 1876

male



inflated vesica

Nasusina vallis Ferris, 2004

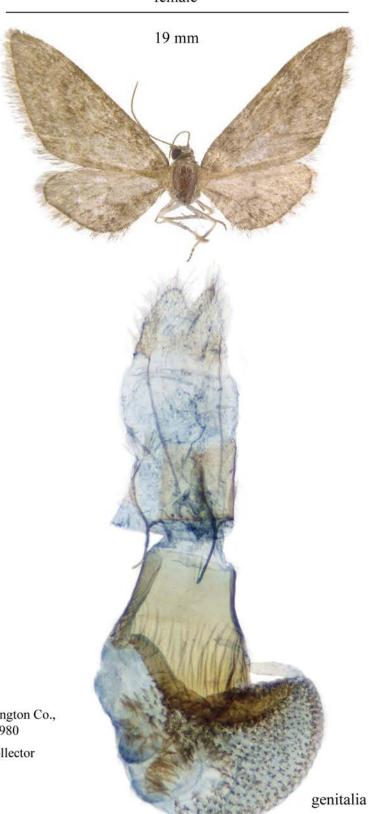
female



Colorado, Mesa Co., John Brown Canyon, 4966', 7 May, 1996, UV light trap, leg. J.S. Nordin

Eupithecia matheri Rindge, 1985

female



New Jersey, Burlington Co., 10 April, 1980

J. S. Nordin collector

Eupithecia regina Taylor, 1906

female



Kentucky, Woodford Co., Kentucky River, 650', 4 May, 1981

J. S. Nordin collector

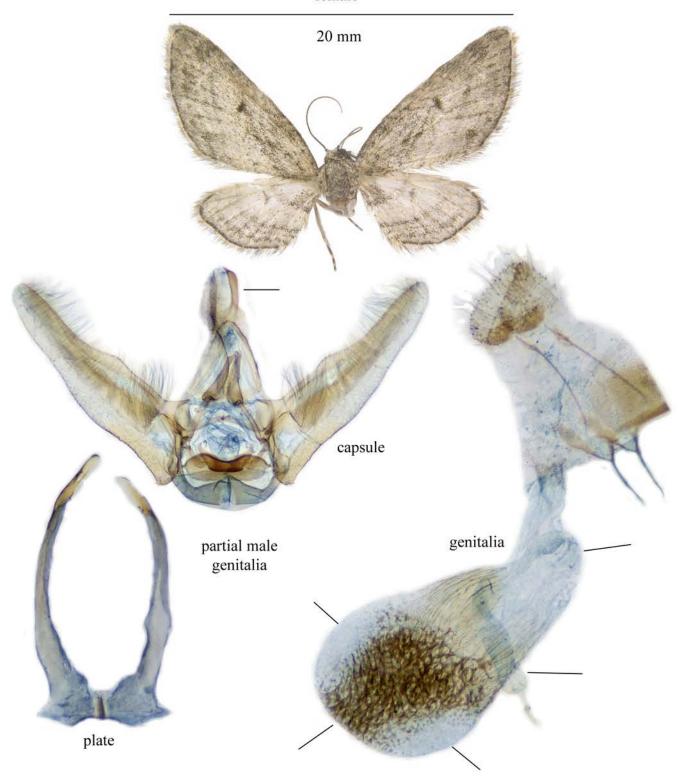
Eupithecia casloata (Dyar, 1904)





Eupithecia longidens (Hulst, 1896)

female

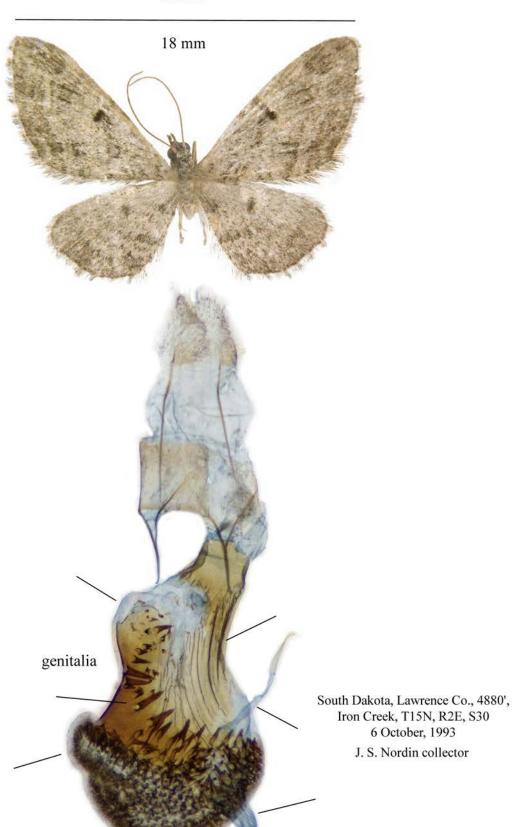


Utah, San Juan Co., 7230', 1.5 miles southwest of Monticello, west of Lloyd's Lake, 11 May, 2007

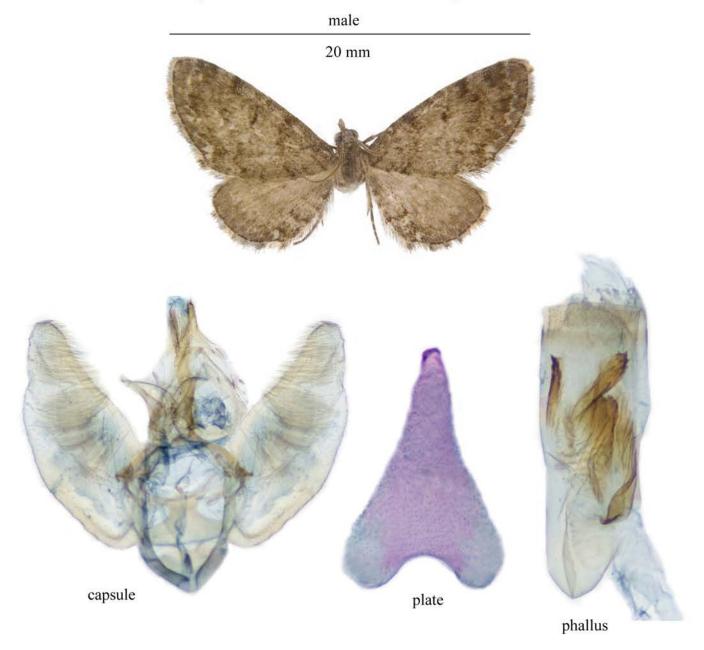
J. S. Nordin collector

Eupithecia interruptofasciata Packard, 1873

female



Eupithecia assimilata Doubleday, 1856



Minnesota, Cass Co., Pillsbury State Forest, jct. Hwy. 1 and Orchard Park Lane, 21–22 June, 1984

J. S. Nordin collector

Eupithecia assimilata Doubleday, 1856

female

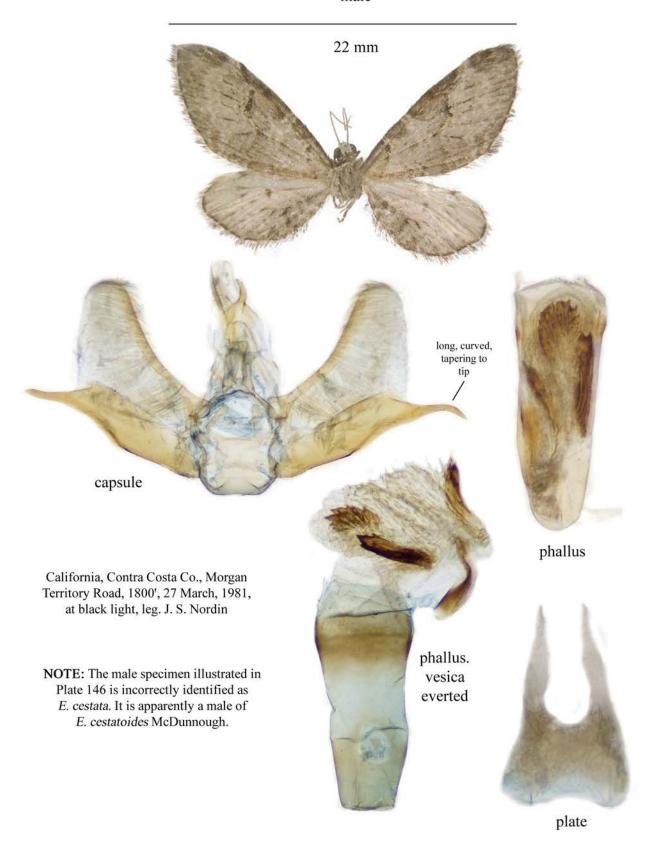


genitalia

Colorado, Larimer, Co., 5980', T9N, R70W, S1, east of Hwy. 287, piñon pine hillside, 12 July, 1996, leg. J. S. Nordin

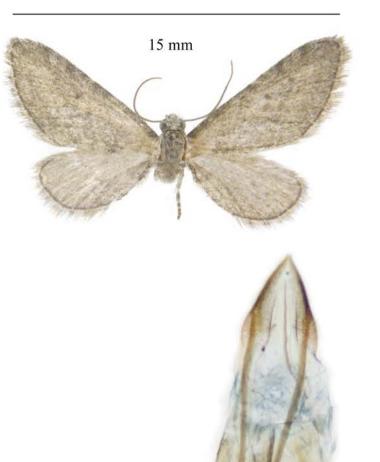
Eupithecia cestata (Hulst, 1896)

male



Nasusina minuta (Hulst, 1896)

female



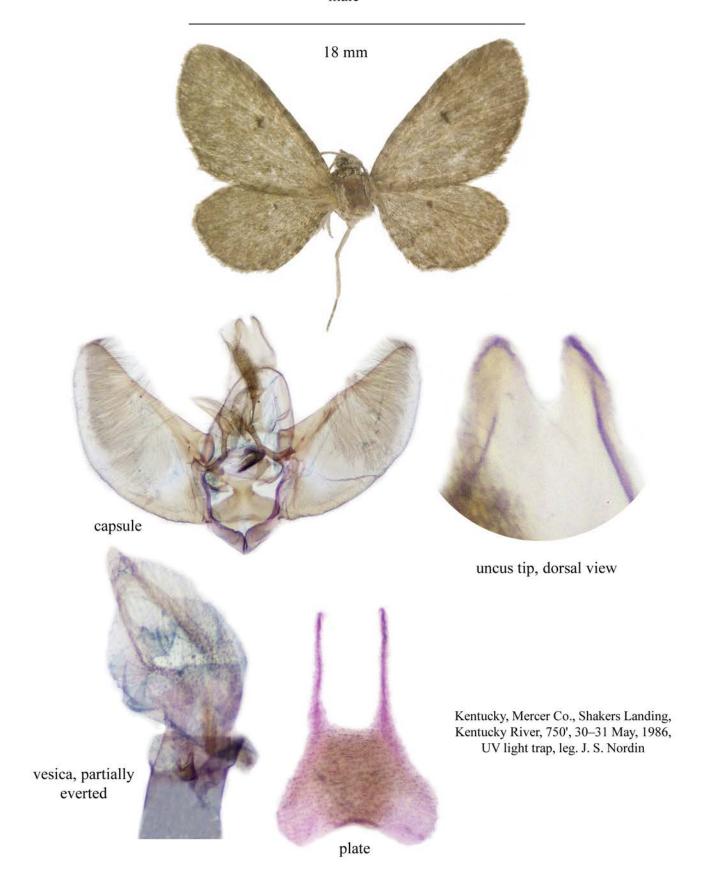
Utah, Washington Co., Leads Creek NW of Silver Reef, 4000', T41S, R74W, S36, 15 May, 1999, at black light, leg. J. S. Nordin

This is an eastern rage extension.



Eupithecia cocoata Pearsall, 1908

male



Eupithecia zygadeniata Packard, 1876

female



Eupithecia annulata (Hulst, 1896)

female



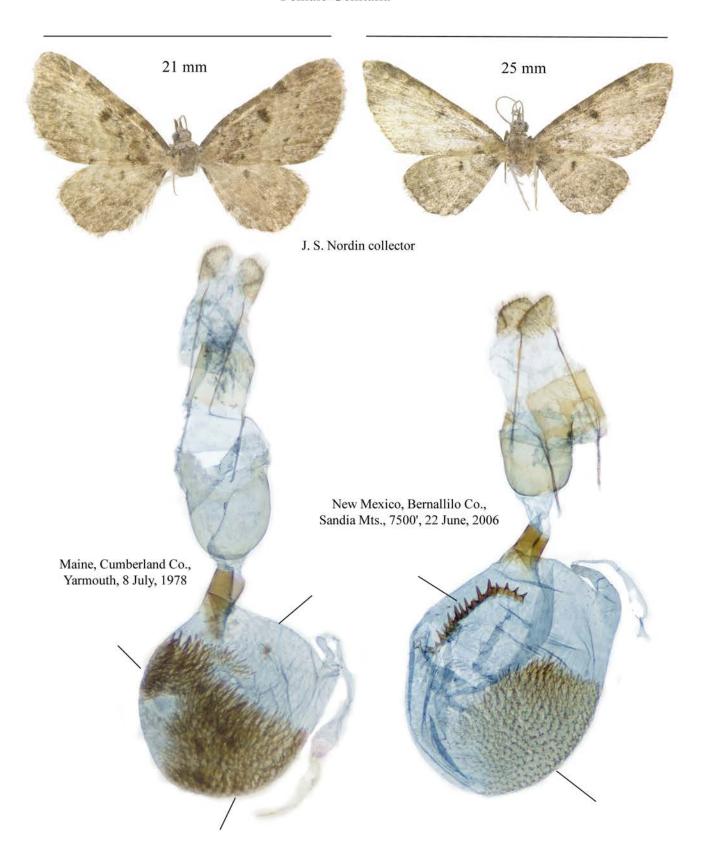


Kentucky, Menifee Co., North of Slade, 700', 19 March, 1979, at black light, leg. J. S. Nordin

Note: E. annulata is probably a complex of species.

Eupithecia mutata Pearsall, 1908 and E. columbrata McDunnough, 1940

Female Genitalia



Eupithecia casloata (Dyar, 1904)

female



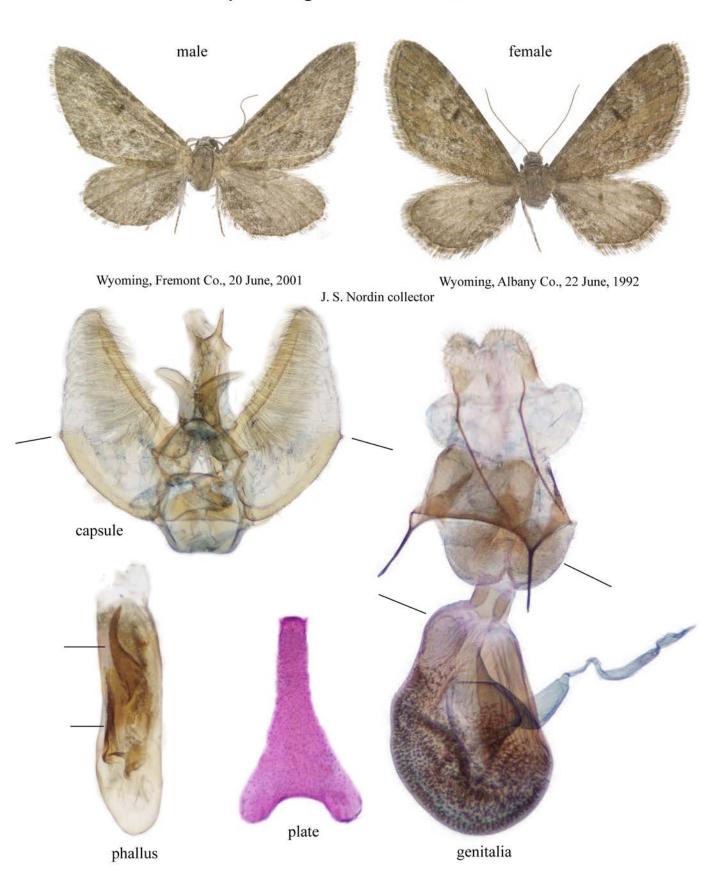
Eupithecia graefii (Hulst, 1896)

female

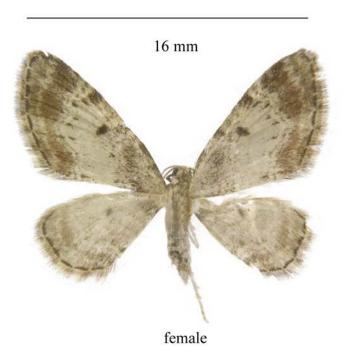


genitalia

Eupithecia gelidata Möschler, 1860



Eupithecia albicapitata Packard, 1876

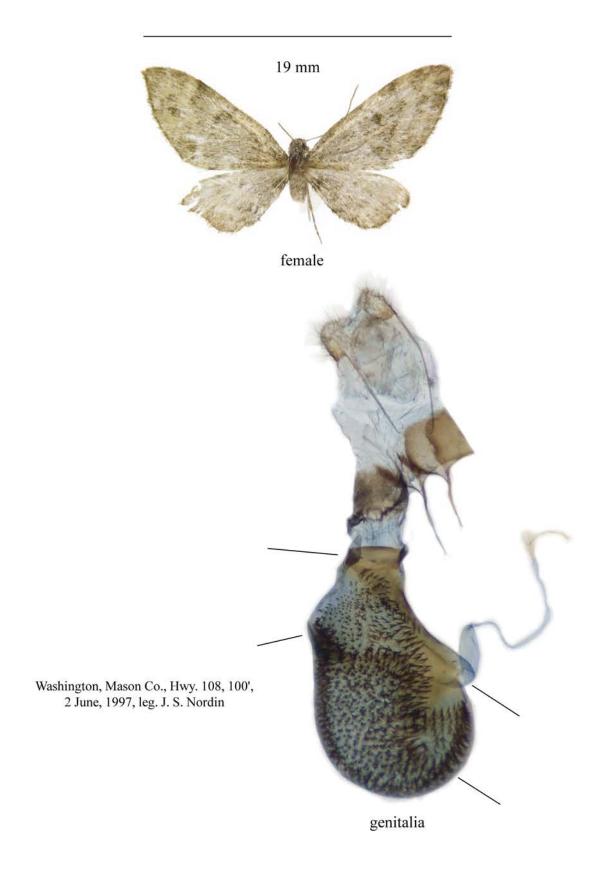


Oregon, Douglas Co., Hwy. 138, 1.5 miles SW of Tyee, 700', 28 June, 1981, leg. J. S. Nordin

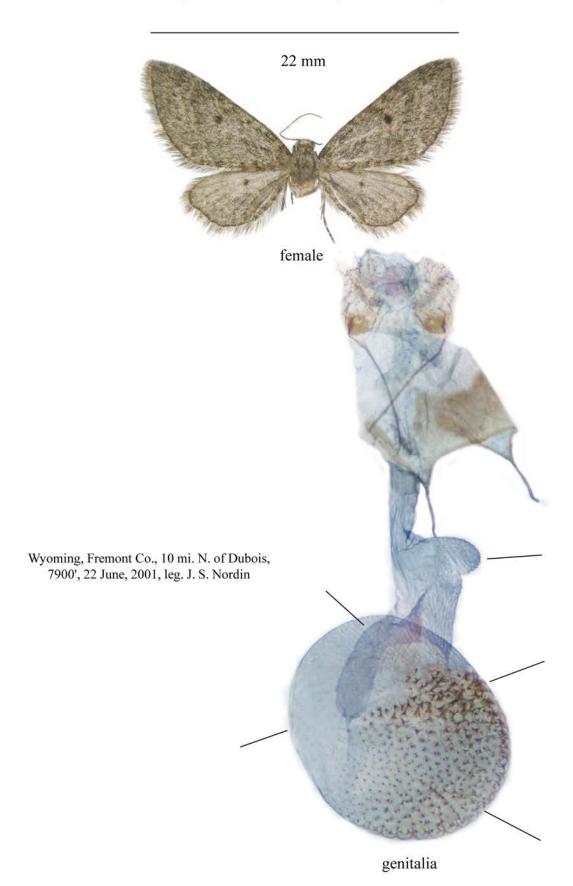
Eupithecia lariciata (Freyer, 1841)



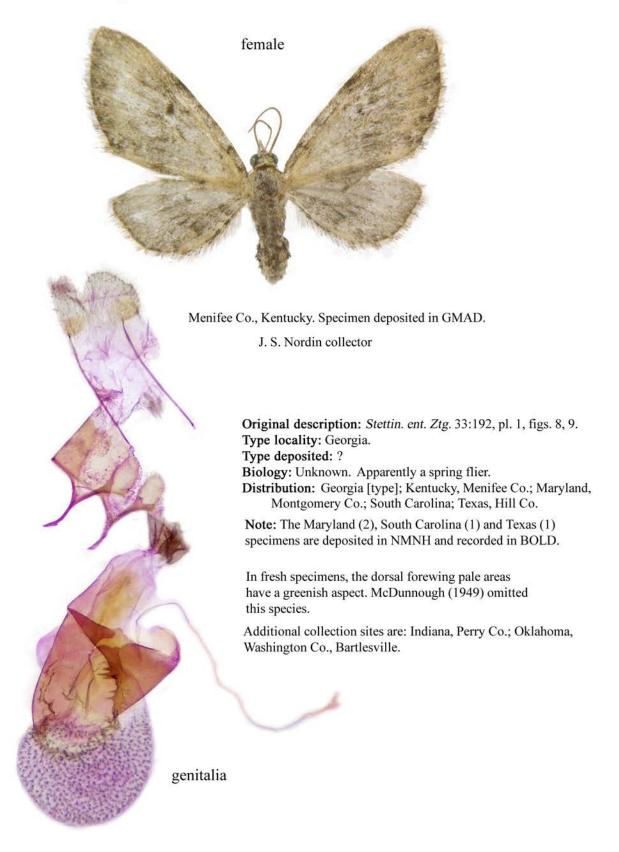
Eupithecia rotundopuncta Packard, 1871



Epithecia unicolor (Hulst, 1896)



Eupithecia chlorofasciata Dietze, 1872

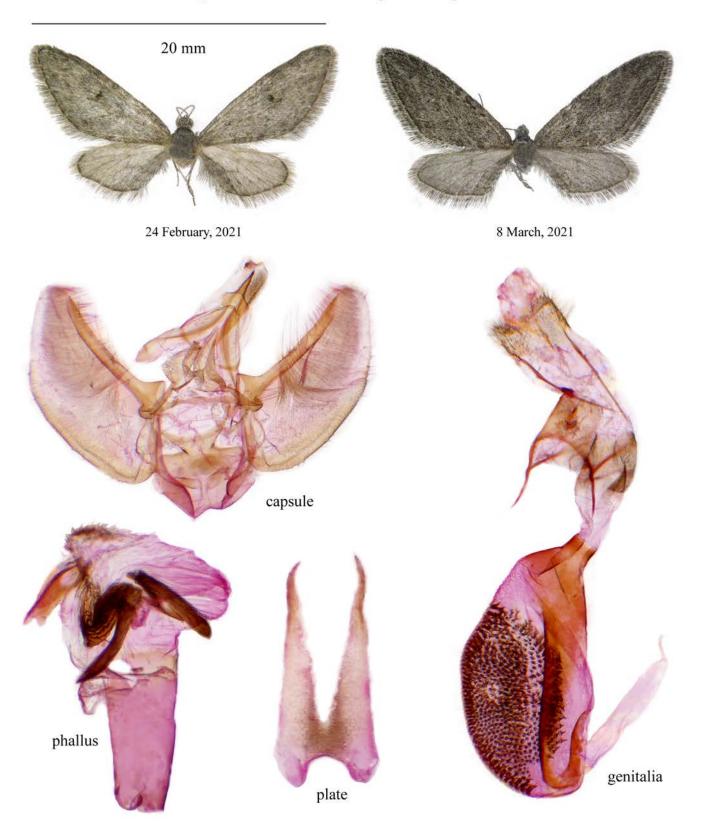


Eupithecia alpinata Cassino, 1927



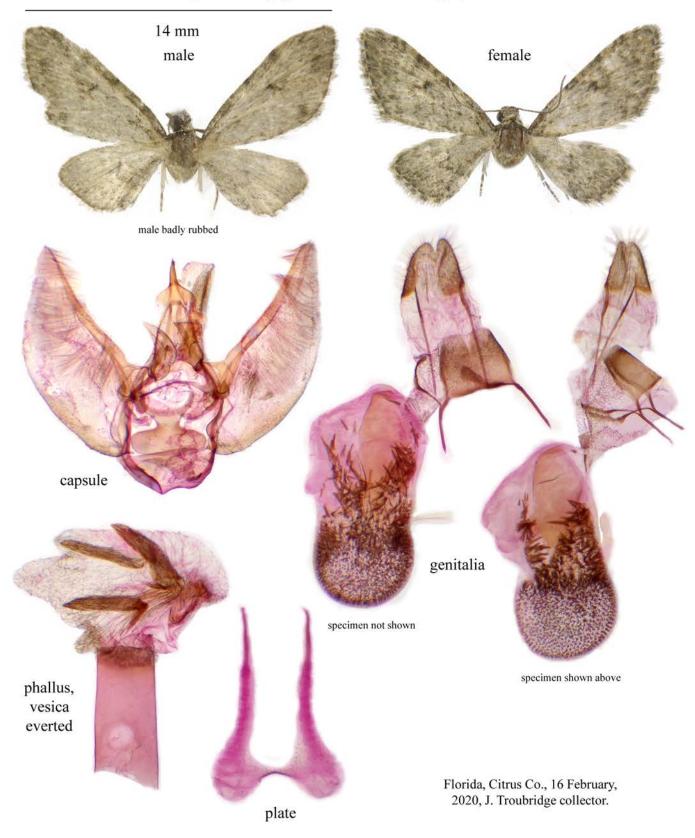
Arizona, Cochise Co., Huachuca Mts., Ramsey Canyon, 5,500', 8 March, 2021, C. W. Melton collector.

Eupithecia macdunnoughi Rindge, 1952

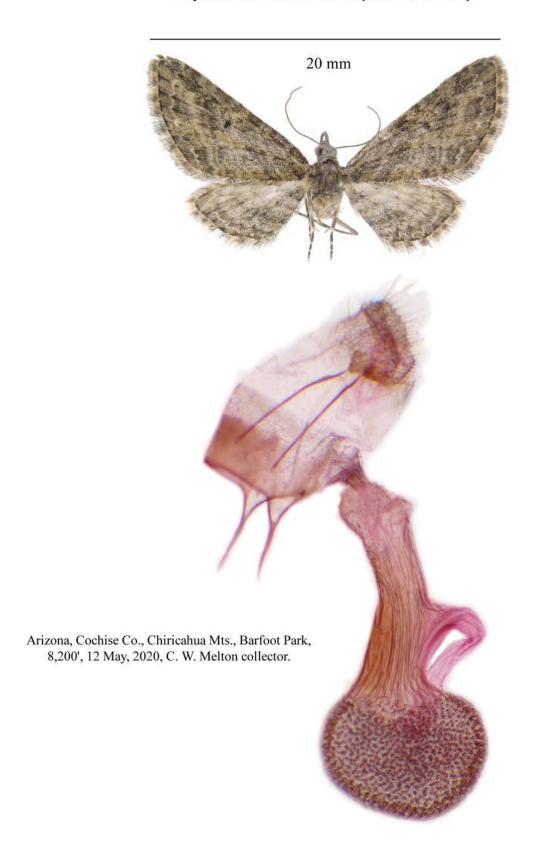


Arizona, Cochise Co., Huachuca Mts., Ramsey Canyon, 5,500', C. W. Melton collector.

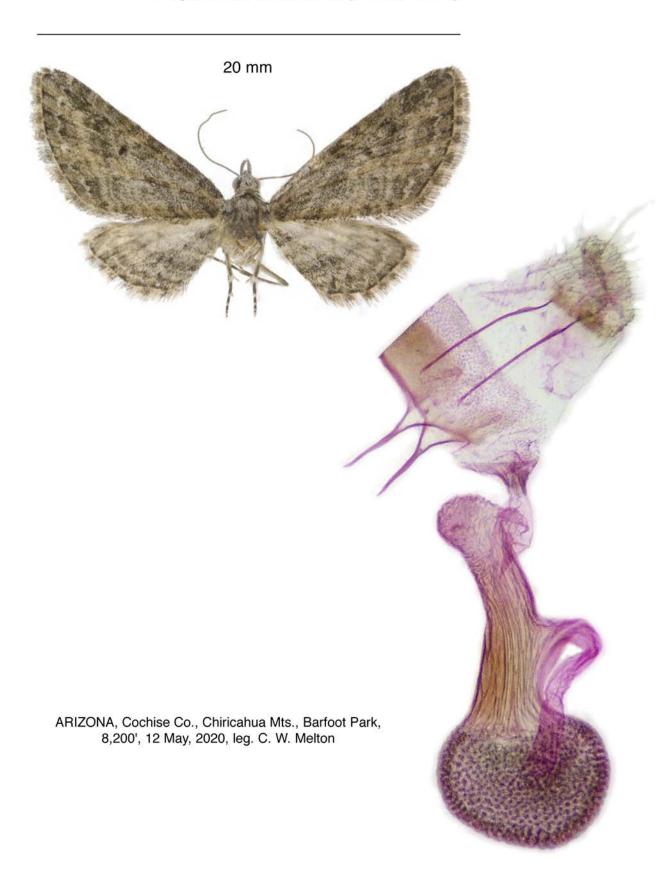
Eupithecia jejunata McDunnough, 1949



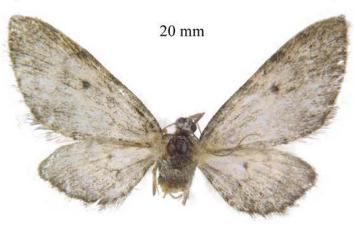
Eupithecia maestosa (Hulst, 1896)



Eupithecia maestosa (Hulst, 1896)



Eupithecia ornata (Hulst, 1896)



specimen badly rubbed



Eupithecia edna (Hulst, 1896)



25 October, 2020



3 May, 2020

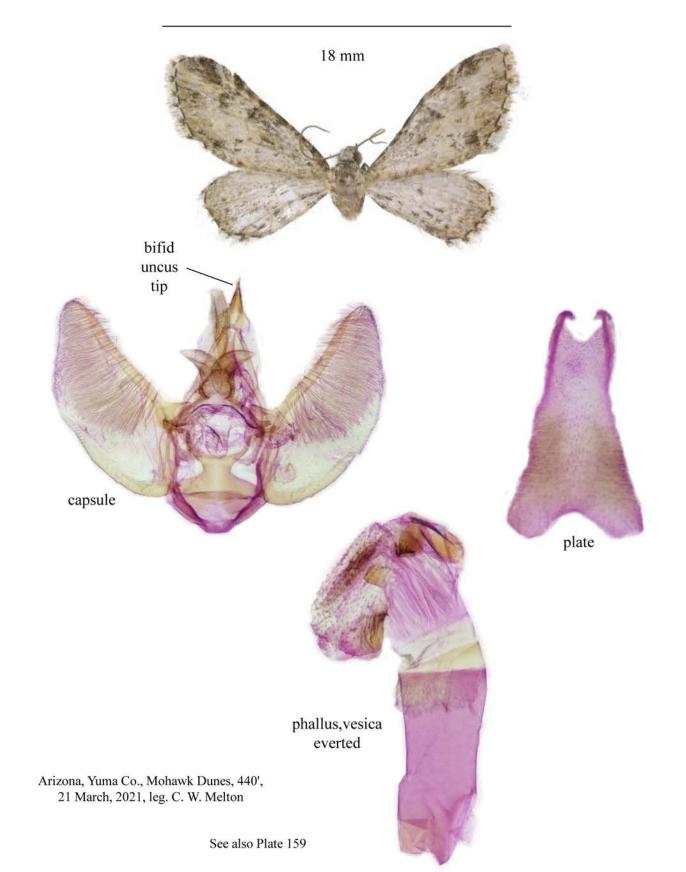


Arizona, Cochise Co., Huachuca Mts, Ramsey Canyon, 5,500', leg. C. W. Melton

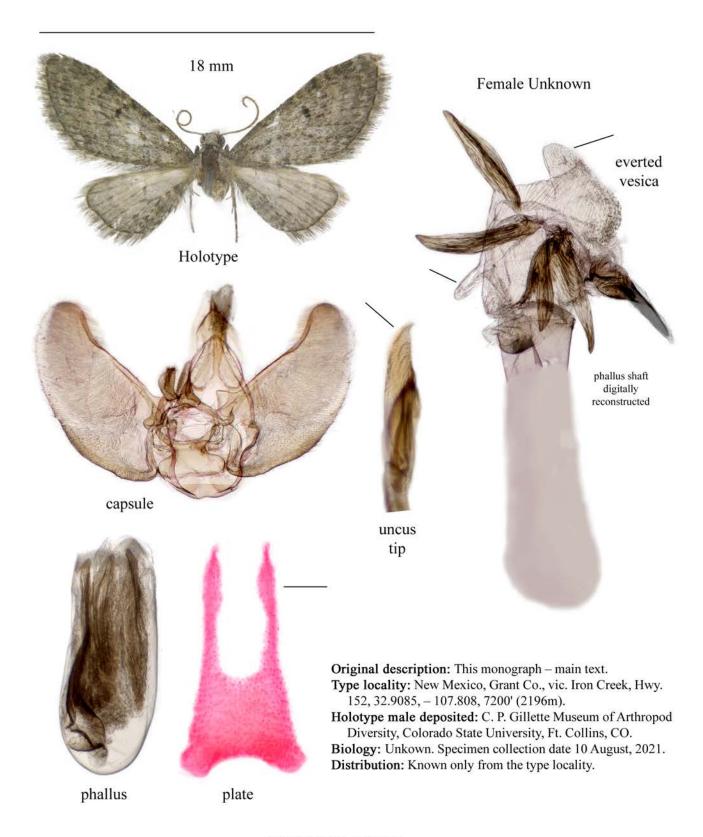


See also Plate 19

Prorella albida Cassino & Swett, 1923

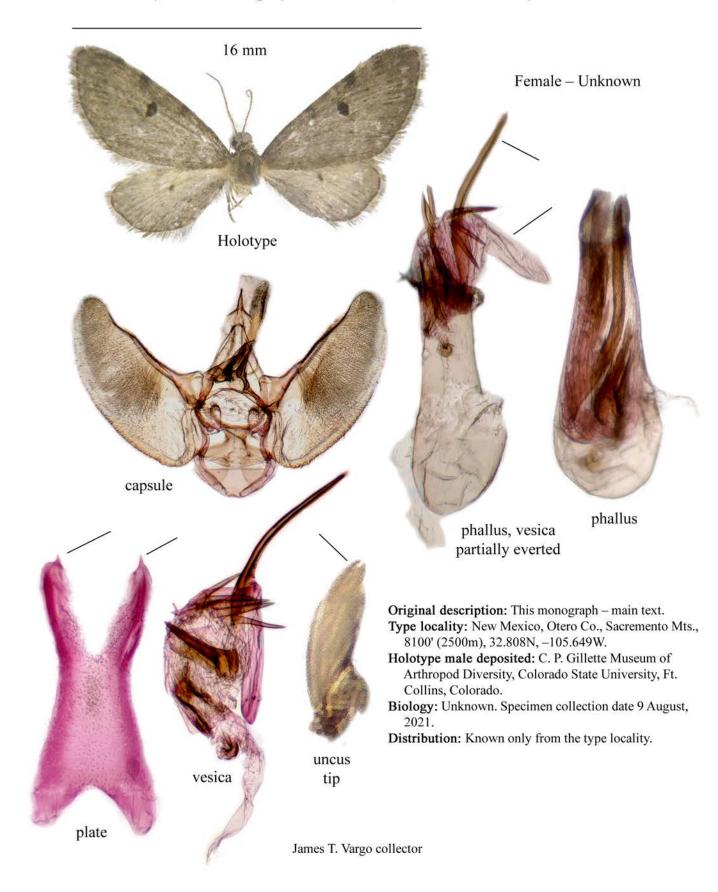


Eupithecia vargoi Ferris, 2022 - New Species

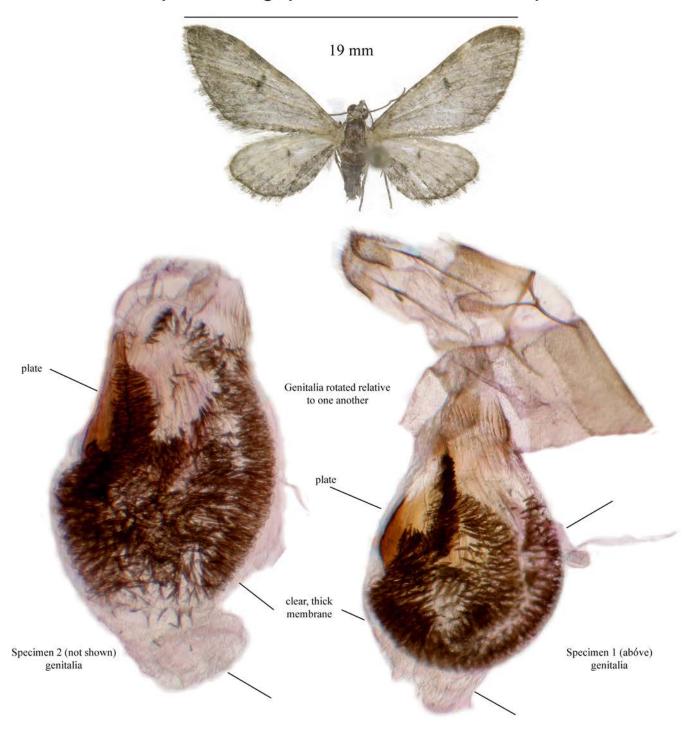


James T. Vargo collector

Eupithecia longispinata Ferris, 2022 - New Species



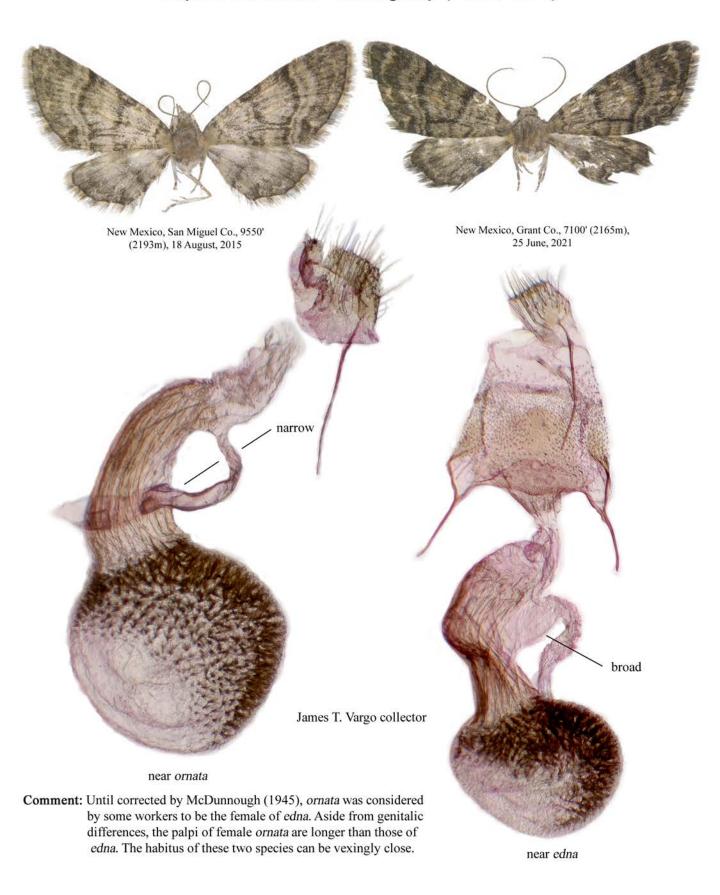
Eupithecia longispinata Ferris, 2022 - New Species



New Mexico, Otero Co., Sacremento Mts., N32°43.66', W105°41.66', 8890' (2711m), 26 August, 2021, UV ight trap, C. D. Ferris collector.

Comment: Based on similarity in habitus, this moth is presumed to be the female sex of the male illustrated in Plate 236. See main text for additional discussion.

Eupithecia ornata – edna group (Hulst, 1896)

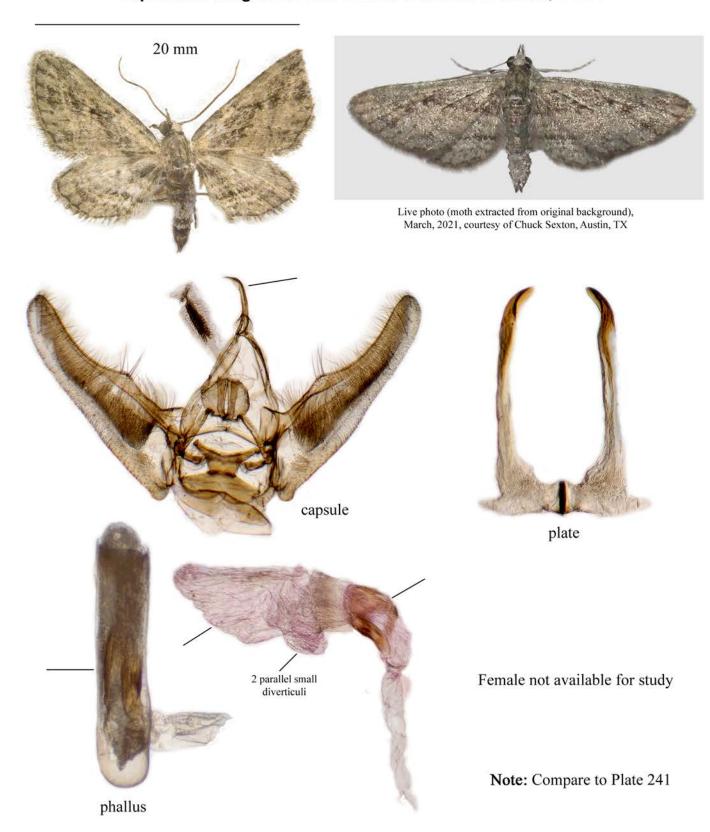


Eupithecia affinata Pearsall, 1908



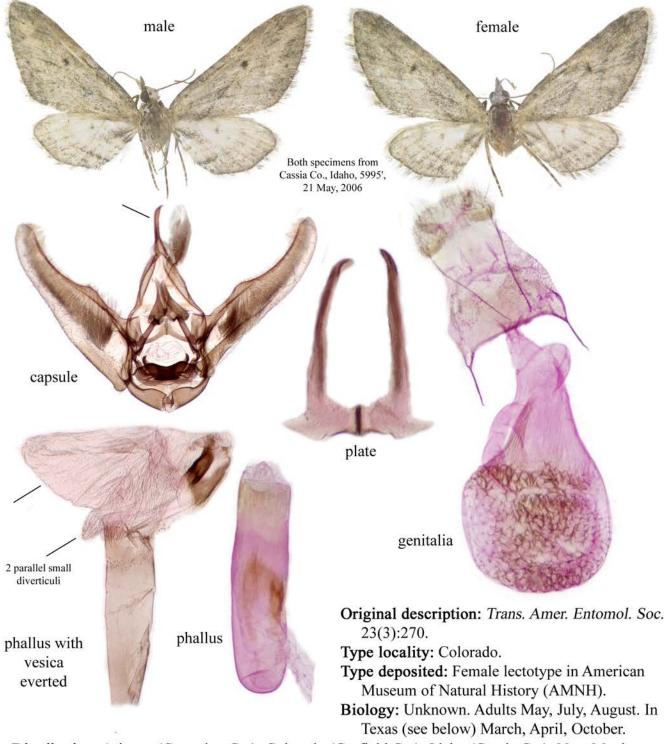
New Mexico, Otero Co., Sacremento Mts., 8100' (2500m), 32.808, – 105.649, James T. Vargo collector

Eupithecia longidens kerrvillaria Cassino & Swett, 1924



Collection locality: Texas, Travis Co., Austin, 30.4177N, -97.7588W, 23 March, 2021, Chuck Sexton collector.

Eupithecia longidens (Hulst, 1896)

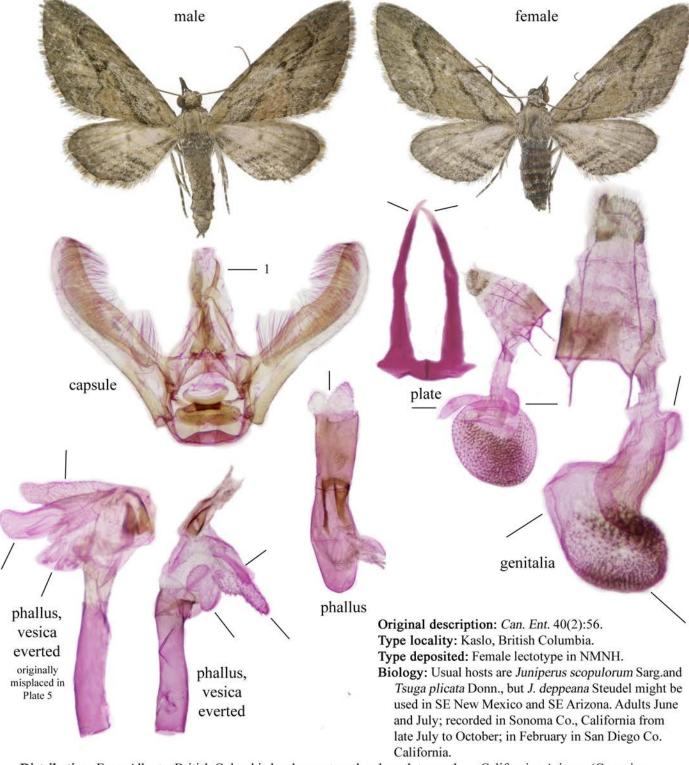


Distribution: Arizona (Coconino Co.); Colorado (Garfield Co.); Idaho (Cassia Co.); New Mexico (Sandoval, San Miguel cos.); Texas (ssp. *kerrvillaria*, Bell, Bexar, Bosque, Kerr cos.); Utah (Juab, San Pete cos.).

Note: A subspecies *kerrvillaria* was described by Cassino & Swett, 1924, *Lepidopterist* 4(4):27 from Kerrville, Texas; male holotype in Museum of Camparative Zoology (MCZ).

Reference: McDunnough, J. H., 1949. *Bulletin. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 93(8):549, 709 figs. 1D, E, pl. 26, figs. 4, 5.

Eupithecia placidata Taylor, 1908



Distribution: From Alberta–British Columbia border westward and south to southern California; Arizona (Coconino, Cochise cos.); Colorado (Larimer, Las Animas cos.); New Mexico (Catron, Grant, Socorro cos.); Utah (San Juan Co.). Wyoming (Washakie Co.).

Diagnostic characters: Central area of forewing with orange blush; 1. slender uncus with hooked tip; other features as noted.

References: Bolte, K. B., 1990: p. 23; p. 197; figs. 71–72. McDunnough, J. H., 1949: p. 559; p. 711 fig. 3C; pl. 26 figs. 26–27.