

THE FIRST REPORT OF PRICHOTILUS ROSE ET POONI, 2005 (LEPIDOPTERA, PTEROPHORIDAE)  
FROM AFRICA WITH DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES

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[Устюжанин П.Я., Ковтунович В.Н. Первая находка в Африке пальцекрылок рода *Prichotilus* Rose et Pooni, 2005 (Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae), с описанием двух новых видов из этого рода]

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**Key words:** new records, new species, Africa, Malawi, Pterophoridae, *Prichotilus*

**Ключевые слова:** новые находки, новый вид, Африка, Малави, Pterophoridae, *Prichotilus*

**Summary.** The genus *Prichotilus* Rose et Pooni, 2005 is first recorded from Africa. Two new species are described: *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. and *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Both species are found in Malawi.

**Резюме.** Впервые для Африки найдены представители рода *Prichotilus* Rose et Pooni, 2005. Два вида из этого рода описываются как новые для науки: *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. и *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Оба вида обнаружены в Малави.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Prichotilus* was reasonably isolated from the genus *Trichoptilus* by [Rose & Pooni, 2005]. The type species of *Prichotilus* is *Trichoptilus bidens* Meyrick, 1930, described from India (Assam, Khasis). The genus has specific morphology of male genitalia and characteristic external morphology [Rose & Pooni, 2005]. Two representatives of *Prichotilus* were first recorded from Africa during the study of materials collected by the authors in the field trip to Malawi in April 2011, and the study of the collections of Raymond Murphy. Both species proved to be new for science.

### Note:

*Trichoptilus archaeodes* Meyrick, 1913 probably belongs to *Prichotilus*; the study of type specimen should clarify the question. The name of the species is misspelled in the World Catalogue of Pterophoridae [Gielis, 2003] - «*archaeodes*»(!) instead of *archaeodes*.

### Abbreviations:

BMNH – British Museum Natural History (UK, London).

CUK – The collection by P. Ustjuzhanin and V. Kovtunovich (Novosibirsk and Moscow, Russia).

## TAXONOMY

### *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. (col. pl. V: 1-2)

**Material.** Holotype, male, BMNH, gen. prep. № 22938, C. Malawi, Kasungu N.P., Lifupa Lodge, 13°05' S 33°08' E, h – 1035 m, 22.04.2011, leg. Kovtunovich V. & Ustjuzhanin P.; Paratype, 1♀, ibid; 1♂, 1♀, N. Malawi, 12 km N Mzuzu, Nkhorongo, 11°23' S, 33°59' E, h – 1375 m, 08.07.2009 and 12.03.2009, leg. R. Murphy. (CUK).

**External characters.** Head, thorax and tegulae brown. Labial palpi forked, rather long and straight. Antennae variegated, white and brown. Wingspan 11-12 mm (holotype – 11 mm). Fore wings monotonous brownish-

grey. Fringe within cleft with darker patches of scales. Fringe along hind edge of fore wing also with darker patches in middle. Hind wings uniformly brownish-grey; third lobe with a spot of dark scales in middle part. Scattered dark scales present in basal part of third lobe.

**Male genitalia.** Uncus elongated, triangular. Valvae symmetrical, divided for almost half of their length. Costal part of valva tapered to apex, basal part wide and rounded, with digitiform extension. Aedeagus arcuate, wide at base, noticeably narrowing to apex.

**Female genitalia** (fig. 1). Papillae anales slender, elongated. Apophyses posteriores slightly widened apically and curved inward. Vaginal plate as two separated ovals. Antrum short, caliciform; ductus long and slender, poorly sclerotized. Bursa copulatrix globular without signa.

**Differential diagnosis.** In male genitalia, by the shape of the uncus and divided valvae, the new species is close to *Prichotilus bidens* Meyrick, but differs considerably by the shape of costal part of valvae, longer and curved aedeagus and the valvae less divided.

**Flight period.** March – July.

**Range.** Malawi (central and northern part).

**Etymology.** The species is named after the Russian lepidopterologist, expert in Cossidae, Dr. Roman Yakovlev (Barnaul, Russia), our companion in the field trip to S-E Africa in April 2011.

### *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. (col. pl. V: 3-5)

**Material.** Holotype, male, BMNH (London). gen. prep. № 22939, S. Malawi, Mangochi District, 25 km E Mangochi, Namizimu Forest Reserve, Uzuzu Hill, 14°24' S, 35°22' E, h – 1010 m, 17-18.04.2011, leg. Kovtunovich V. & Ustjuzhanin P.; Paratype, 1♂, ibid. (CUK).

**External characters.** Head, thorax and tegulae brownish-grey. Labial palpi forked, straight, equal in size or slightly longer than eye diameter. Antennae variegated, white and brown. Wingspan 13-14 mm (holotype – 13 mm). Fore

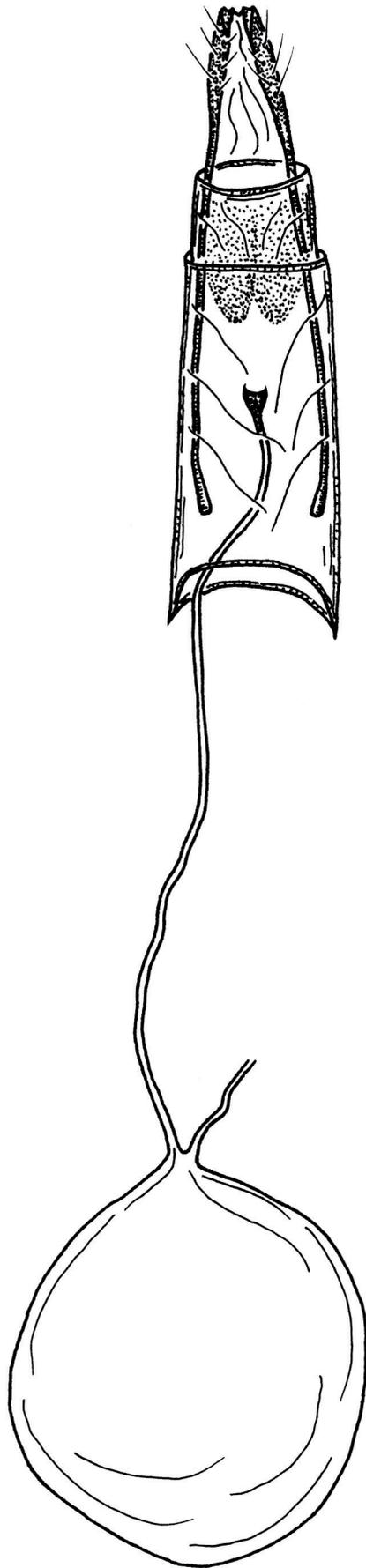


Fig. 1. *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. Female genitalia. Paratype.  
 Рис. 1. *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. Гениталии самки. Паратип.

wings uniformly brownish-grey, with patches of white scales along costal edge of first lobe and in apical part of both lobes. Fringe within cleft with darker patches of scales. Fringe along hind edge of fore wing also with darker patches in middle of the edge. Hind wings monotonous brownish-grey. Third lobe with patches of dark scales in middle part and at apex. Scattered dark scales present in basal part of third lobe.

**Male genitalia.** Uncus oval-shaped, widely rounded at apex. Valvae symmetrical. Incision in valvae shallow, reaching only 1/3 of their length. Costal part of valva relatively wide, slightly tapered to apex, basal part wide with short digitiform extension. Aedeagus rather long, almost equal in size to valva, slightly concave, wide at base, tapered to apex.

**Female.** Unknown.

**Differential diagnosis.** In male genitalia, by general morphology resembles *Prichotilus bidens* and *Prichotilus yakovlevi*, differing well by the oval shape of the uncus, poorly divided valvae and slightly concave aedeagus. *Prichotilus tara* differs also from *Prichotilus yakovlevi* by external characters: by the presence of white patches of scales on both lobes of the fore wing and by two darker spots on the third lobe of hind wing.

**Flight period.** April.

**Range.** S. Malawi.

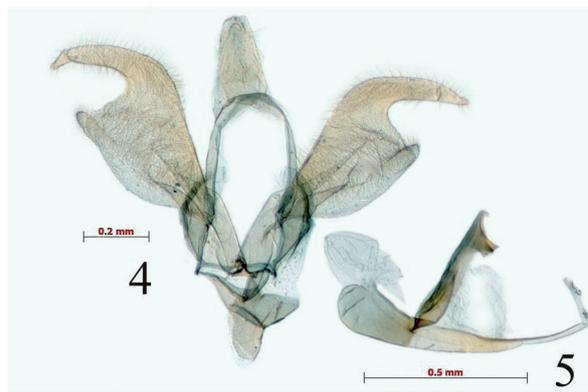
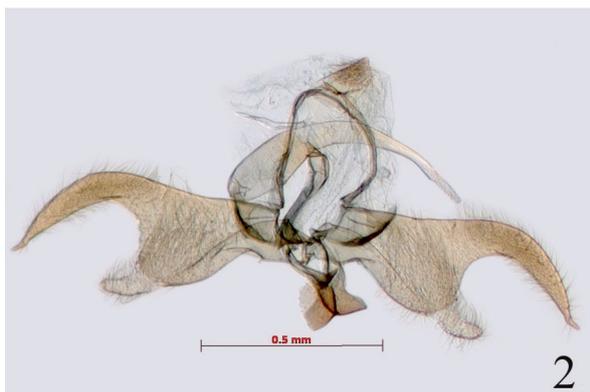
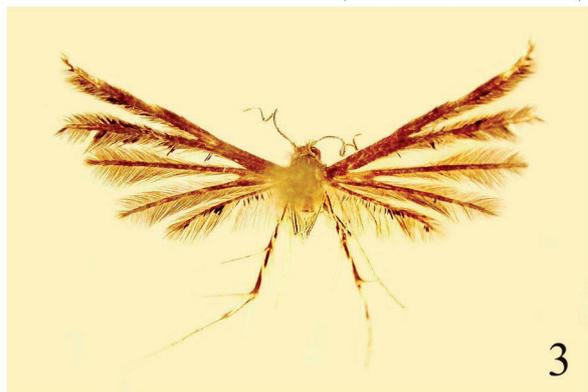
**Etymology.** The species is named after Ms. Tara Hakimi, who gave us warm welcome and kindly allowed to work in the territory of her mansion in Namizimu Forest Reserve.

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1 – *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. Imago. Holotype; 2 – *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. Male genitalia. Holotype; 3 – *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Imago. Holotype; 4 – *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Male genitalia. Holotype; 5 – *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Male genitalia. Aedeagus. Holotype.

1 – *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. Имаго. Голотип; 2 – *Prichotilus yakovlevi* sp.n. Гениталии самца. Голотип; 3 – *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Имаго. Голотип; 4 – *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Гениталии самца. Голотип; 5 – *Prichotilus tara* sp.n. Гениталии самца. Эдегус. Голотип.