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NOTE

REPORT ON THE GENUS *HERDONIA* WALKER (LEPIDOPTERA: THYRIDIDAE) IN KARNATAKA WESTERN GHATS, INDIA

P.R. Shashank

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REPORT ON THE GENUS *HERDONIA* WALKER (LEPIDOPTERA: THYRIDIDAE) IN KARNATAKA WESTERN GHATS, INDIA

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The genus *Herdonia* was erected by Walker (1859) with *Herdonia osacesalis* from Sylhet, Bangladesh as the type species by monotypy. Warren (1907) and Gaede (1932) described two further species, *H. candida* and *H. papuensis*, respectively, from Papua New Guinea, followed over 40 years later by the descriptions of *H. margarita* from Japan by Inoue (1976) and *H. acaresa* from Jiangxi, China by Zhu & Wang (1992). Following these isolated descriptions, Inoue (1993) revised the genus, describing 15 new species, then later (Inoue 2001) added a further seventeen new species and one new subspecies. These two publications from the late Professor H. Inoue remain the comprehensive revisions of this genus to date. Of the more than 34 species now known worldwide (Whitaker et al. 2014), only one, *H. osacesalis*, has been recorded so far from India (Inoue 1993), in the northeastern states in Darjeeling, West Bengal and Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.

During our recent surveys in Karnataka, conducted as part of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Network Project on Insect Biosystematics (ICAR-NPIB), on 17 March 2015, two males of this genus were collected using a light trap and one specimen was photographed near the Guest House, Regional Research Station Coffee

Board, Chettalli, Kodagu, Karnataka (12.38°N & 75.838°E; elevation 1050m) (Image 1). The collected specimens were processed following the procedures described by Shashank & Ramamurthy (2014) and they are deposited in the collection of the Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India (NPC). They were identified as *H. thaiensis* using the diagnostic characters for the species given in the description by Inoue (1993): unipectinate male antennae; forewing length range 14–16 mm (male); slender uncus; valva with apical half more strongly



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Image 1. *Herdonia thaiensis* Inoue, photographed at Chettalli, Kodagu, Karnataka.

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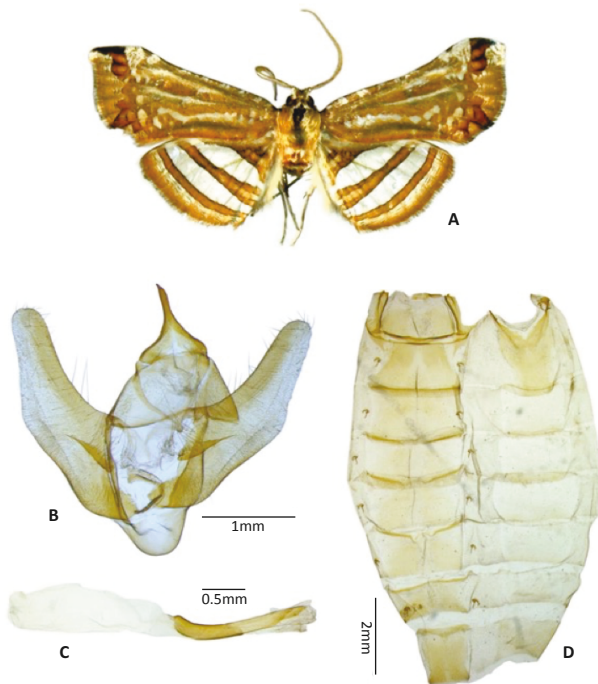


Image 2. Morphology of *Herdonia thaiensis* Inoue
A - Male moth; B - Male genitalia; C - Phallus; D - Abdomen.

narrowed; and phallus very slender (Image 2).

Valke (2011) reported a species of *Herdonia* listed as “near *thaiensis* Inoue” from the Yeoor Hills, Maharashtra, prior to which in India, this genus was considered to be confined to the Himalayan forested areas with heavy rainfall. The flight period is very short and the moths are never found in large numbers. The previously reported distribution of *H. thaiensis* was

Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, northern Sumatra, and western Malaysia (Whitaker et al. 2014). Our study documents the extension of the range of both the genus *Herdonia* and the species *H. thaiensis* to the Western Ghats (Kodagu, Karnataka) of peninsular India.

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