To the systematic position of *Synanthedon subauratus* Le Cerf, 1916
(Lepidoptera: Sesiidae)

**KEY WORDS:** Lepidoptera, Sesiidae, *Anthedonella subaurata*, new combination, Indonesia, Sulawesi.

**ABSTRACT.** The sesiid moth *Synanthedon subauratus* Le Cerf, 1916 is redescribed. A study of the genitalia of both the male and female has allowed us to establish its real systematic position within the tribe Synanthedonini and to transfer it to the genus *Anthedonella* O.Gorbunov, Arita, 1995, resulting in *Anthedonella subaurata* (Le Cerf, 1916), comb. n. The male and both the male and female genitalia of this species are described and illustrated for the first time.

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**Introduction**

The Synanthedonini is the largest sesiid tribe [Špatenka et al. 1999; Gorbunov, Gurko, 2017]. Unfortunately, in the Oriental realm this tribe is still poorly studied, even though a number of papers have appeared over the last couple decades containing descriptions of new taxa and extensive reviews of the tribe in the faunas of Vietnam and Taiwan [Arita, Gorbunov, 1995a, 1995b, 1998; Gorbunov, Arita, 1995a, 1995b, 2000, 2001a, 2001b, 2005; Gorbunov, 2015; Liang, Hsu, 2015]. According to the latest data, this tribe in the region encompasses 83 species in 12 genera [Pühringer, Kallies, 2018]. Unbelievable as it might seem, nearly half of these species (41) belong to the Palearctic genus *Synanthedon* Hübner, 1819 [“1816”] (the type-species: *Sphinx oestriformis* Rottemburg, 1775 [= *Sphinx vesperformis* Linnaeus, 1761]), which we consider polyphyletic even within the Palearctic [Gorbunov, Gurko, 2017]. Its presence in the Oriental Region is deemed simply incredible. All above suggests that the tribe Synanthedonini in the Oriental Region is in need of a serious revision. In addition, in our opinion, it is time to deal with the generic structure of the tribe within the Palearctic.

Studying the clearwing moth fauna of the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia [Gorbunov, 2016; Gorbunov, Arita, 2016], we have found a small series of an interesting *Synanthedon*-like species. A careful investigation of the external morphology and a comparison with different type specimens showed that all males and females of this series belong to one species, namely, *Synanthedon subauratus* Le Cerf, 1916, originally described also from southern Sulawesi. Further studies of both male and female genitalia allowed us to determine the actual systematic position of this species and to transfer it to the genus *Anthedonella* O.Gorbunov, Arita, 1999 (the type-species: *Anthedonella polyphaga* O.Gorbunov et Arita, 1999), resulting in *Anthedonella subaurata* (Le Cerf, 1916), comb. n.

At present, we include the following nine species in this genus: *A. polyphaga* O. Gorbunov et Arita, 1999 (type locality: Nepal, Koshi, Dhankuta), the type species; *A. flavida* O. Gorbunov et Arita 2000 (type locality: N. Vietnam, Ninh Binh Prov., Cuc Phuong); *A. ignicauda* (Hampson, 1919) (type locality: NW Myanmar, Chindwin, Kalewa); *A. jinghongensis* (Yang et Wang, 1989) (type locality: China, Yunnan, Jinhong);
A. opalizans (Hampson, 1919) (type locality: Indonesia, North Maluku, Sula Is., Mangole Id.);
A. siberutica O. Gorbunov, 2015 (type locality: Indonesia, Mentawai Is., Sibutur Id.);
A. subaurata (Le Cerf, 1916), comb.n. (type locality: Indonesia, South Sulawesi, enirons of Maros);
A. subtilлина (Bryk, 1947) (type locality: NE Myanmar, Kambaiti);
A. theobroma (Bradley, 1957) (type locality: Malaysia, Selangor, Seri Kembangan).

Below we take the opportunity to redescribe this species in due detail, while the male and both male and female genitalia are described here for the first time.

All images of moths were taken with a Sony α450 DSLR camera with a Minolta 50 Macro lens. The figures of the holotype and its labels from the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, France were scanned using a Nikon® LS 2000 Cool Scan from Ektachrome® slides. The genitalic images were taken with a Keyence BZ-9000 Biorevo Fluorescence Microscope. The final processing of all illustrations was performed with Adobe® Photoshop® CS5.

The material studied or mentioned herein is kept in the following collections: MNHP – Museum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, France, COGM – the collection of the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. All pictures of dry specimens are labeled with a number containing the name of the family, two consecutive digits and a year (e.g. SESIIDAE pictures №№ 0243–2044 -2013). These numbers correspond to those of the figured specimens in the first author’s archive.

Genital preparations are kept in microtubes pinned under the specimen. All genitalia have the appropriate number placed inside the microtube. This number as a label (e.g. Genital preparation №№ O.G. Gorbunov, Yu. Arita 0244–2013). These numbers correspond to those of the figured specimens in the first author’s archive.

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Taxonomic account

Antedonella subaurata (Le Cerf, 1916), comb.n.

Figs 1–15.

“Synanthedon subauratus nov. sp.” — Le Cerf 1916: 11, pl. 378, fig. 3166. Type locality: “Célebes mérid., région basse entre Maros et Bamba, …” [= Indonesia, South Sulawesi, environs of Maros]. Holotype ♀ (Figs 1, 2) (MNHP).

Le Cerf, 1917: 295 (Synanthedon subauratus nov. sp.); Hampson, 1919: 71 (Conopia; as a synonym of Aegeria auriplena Walker, 1865 (“1864”)); Dalla Torre, Strand, 1925: 109 (Conopia; as a synonym of Aegeria auriplena Walker, 1865 (“1864”)); Gadee, 1933: 783, pl. 94, row e (Conopia; as a synonym of Aegeria auriplena Walker, 1865 (“1864”)); Heppner, Duckworth, 1981: 29 (Synanthedon; as a synonym of Aegeria auriplena Walker, 1865 (“1864”)); Gorbunov, 1995a: 85 (Synanthedon; as a distinct species); Gorbunov, Arita, 1995b: 222 (Synanthedon; as a distinct species); Arita, Gorbunov, 1998: 152, 155 (Paranthrenella, as a distinct species); Gorbunov, Arita, 1999: 199 (Paranthrenella; as a distinct species); Gorbunov, Arita, 2000: 96 (Paranthrenella, as a distinct species); Pühringer, Kalîes, 2004: 29 (Synanthedon; as a distinct species).

MATERIAL. Holotype ♀ (Fig. 1), with labels as in Fig. 2 (MNHP); 2 ♂♂ (Figs 7–10), 2 ♀♀ (Figs 3–6), Indonesia: SE Sulawesi, Tiu Lapolu, 12–18.III.2008, local collector (COGM).

DESCRIPTION. Male (Figs 7–8). Alar expanse 16.7 mm; body length 11.5 mm; forewing 7.9 mm; antenna 6.1 mm.

Head: antenna dorsally black with purple-violet sheen, ventrally light brown covered with yellow scales, with a dark brown to black apex; scapus yellow; frons brown with bright greenish-blue sheen, laterally with a narrow pale yellow stripe with golden sheen; vertex black with bright greenish-violet sheen; labial palpus yellow with individual brown scales in distal half; occipital fringe yellow dorsally and pale yellow laterally.

Thorax: patagia dark brown to black with bright green-violet sheen; tegula dark brown to black with bright violet sheen, yellow with golden sheen both interiorly and posteriorly; meso- and metathorax brown to black with violet sheen; metathorax yellow; thorax laterally brown with a large, medi-al, yellow spot with golden sheen; both metepimeron and metamerically yellow posteriorly.

Legs: neck yellow with golden sheen; fore coxa yellow with golden sheen; fore femur dark brown to black with violet sheen externally and yellow internally; fore tibia entirely yellow with golden sheen; fore tarsus dorsally yellow with golden sheen, ventrally black with greenish sheen; mid coxa dark brown with a few yellow scales; mid femur dark brown to black with bluish sheen externally and yellow internally; mid tibia yellow with golden sheen; spurs yellow with golden sheen; mid tarsus yellow with golden sheen, with admixture of dark brown scales on 2–5 tarsomeres dorsally; hind coxa dark brown with a few yellow scales; hind femur dark brown to black with bluish sheen externally and yellow internally; hind tibia yellow with golden sheen, also with a small spot dark brown to black with violet sheen at base of mid spurs externally and with a broad dark brown to black ring with violet sheen at base of apical spurs; spurs yellow with golden sheen; hind tarsus exterodorsally yellow with golden sheen with admixture of black scales with bronzed sheen at base of each tarsomere, interventrally yellow with golden sheen.

Abdomen: dorsally black with bright violet-bronzed sheen; tergites 2, 3 and 4 each with a narrow dark yellow stripe distally; tergites 5–7 each with an orange stripe distally; tergites 4–7 each densely covered with orange scales; ventrally gradually changing from yellow to orange caudally; central part of anal tuft dorsally black with violet sheen, laterally part orange with a narrow strip black with violet sheen medially; ventrally black with bright violet-blue sheen.

Forewing: dorsally black with bronzed-blue sheen at base; costal margin, CuA-stem and anal margin brown to black with dark green-violet sheen, with admixture of individual yellow scales; discal spot and veins within external transparent area dark brown to black with dark violet sheen; apical area dark brown with bronzed sheen, densely mixed with orange scales between veins R₄-R₅ and M₁–M₃; ventrally yellow with golden sheen at base; costal margin, R₄ and CuA-stems dark brown and densely covered with yellow scales; discal spots, veins R₄ and R₅, and veins within external transparent area dark brown to black with dark purple sheen; apical area dark brown to black with purple sheen, densely mixed with yellow scales between veins R₄-R₅ and M₁–M₃; discal spot narrow, slightly narrowed caudally, about 0.2 times as wide as external transparent area; transparent areas well-developed, covered with sparse hyaline scales with bluish-violet sheen; external transparent area large, rounded distally, divided into six cells, cell between veins R₄ and R₅ somewhat exceeding the distal margins of other cells; posterior transparent area exceeding the distal margin of discal spot; cilia dark brown with bronzed sheen.
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Hindwing: transparent; veins dark brown to black with bronzed sheen dorsally; discal spot dark brown to black with purple sheen, extremely small, cuneiform, exceeding the base of vein M₂; outer margin dark brown to black with purple sheen, extremely narrow, about 1/3 as broad as cilia; costal margin yellow ventrally, veins and discal spot dark brown to black with purple sheen; cilia dark brown with bronzed sheen, yellow with golden sheen anally.

Male genitalia (genital preparation OG-011-2014) (Figs 12–15). Tegumen-uncus complex narrow; scopula androcornialis well-developed, long, about as long as tegumen-uncus complex (Fig. 12); crista gnathi medialis short and narrow; crista gnati lateralis longer and broader than crista gnathi medialis (Fig. 12); valva (Fig. 13) trapeziform-oval, crista sacculi nearly flat, covered with apically bifurcate setae; ventral crista rather large, covered with triangular flat-topped setae; saccus (Fig. 14) broadened and slightly bifurcate basally, short, about as long as vinculum; aedeagus (Fig. 15) thin, slightly shorter than valva; vesica with numerous small cornuti.


Female (Figs 3, 4). Alar expanse 19.0 mm; body length 11.4 mm; forewing 9.1 mm; antenna 6.2 mm.

Somewhat more robust than male. Thorax entirely yellow with golden sheen laterally. Hind leg entirely yellow with golden sheen. Abdomen more densely covered with yellow-orange scales dorsally, entirely yellow ventrally; central part of anal tuft yellow-orange, lateral part black with admixture of yellow scales laterally. Forewing apical area with orange scales between veins R₄–Cu₂; external transparent area large, divided into five cells, cell between veins R₁ and R₄ absent. Colour patterns otherwise as in male.

Female genitalia (genital preparation OG–012-2014) (Fig. 11). Papillae anales relatively long and narrow, covered with short setae; 8th tergite narrow and long with short setae; posterior apophysis somewhat longer than anterior apophysis; both lamellae antevaginalis and postvaginalis undeveloped; ostium bursae somewhat anterior to 8th tergite, antrum relatively narrow, slightly broadened at ostium, long, about half as long as anterior apophysis, well-sclerotized; ductus seminalis stemming just from anterior margin of antrum; ductus bursae well-sclerotized at ductus seminalis, then membranous, narrow, slightly broadened towards corpus bursae; relatively long, about twice as long as antrum; corpus bursae globose to ovoid, without signum, but with numerous flat spines.

INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY. This species slightly varies in the number of yellow scales on the thorax, abdomen and forewing. Besides this, the size and number of cells in the external transparent area of the forewing are inconstant (see Figs 1, 2–10). Both males and females are somewhat variable in individual size. Males: alar expanse 16.7–16.2 mm; body length 11.5–11.0 mm; forewing 7.9–7.6 mm; antenna 6.1–5.8 mm. Females: alar expanse 19.5–16.0 mm; body length 11.6–9.0 mm; forewing 9.3–7.3 mm; antenna 6.2–5.2 mm.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. Superficially, *A. subaurata* (Le Cerf, 1916), *comb.n.* seems to be the closest to *A. opalizans*, but it can be distinguished by the conformation of the external transparent area of the forewing (more narrow with a straight and oblique distal margin, level to vein M₁ about as broad as apical area in the species compared) and by the absence of yellow scales between veins in the apical area of the forewing. From *A. flavida* this species is easily separable by the coloration of the abdomen dorsally [male tergites 2, 4 and 6 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally, female tergite 2 with a narrow, tergite 4 with a broad and tergites 5 and 6 each with an extremely narrow yellow-orange stripe distally in *A. flavida* [compare Figs 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 with figs 9 and 10 in Gorbunov, Arita, 2000], by the coloration of the anal tuft (dorsally dark brown to black with bronze-purple
sheen, with two elongated yellow spots medially and with an admixture of yellow scales laterally in the male and dark brown to black with green-bronze sheen, mixed with dark yellow to yellow-orange scales in the female of the species compared), by the conformation of the crista gnathi, crista sacculi and saccus in the male genitalia [compare Figs 12–14 with figs 20a–c Gorbunov, Arita, 2000] and by the shapes of the antrum, ductus bursae and corpus bursae in the female genitalia [see Fig. 11 and fig. 27 in Gorbunov, Arita, 2000]. From *A. siberutica* this species differs by the coloration of the antenna (dorsally with a yellow spot in the apical quarter in the species compared), abdomen dorsally (each tergite with a narrow stripe yellow with golden sheen distally, the stripe on tergite 4 broadened laterally in *A. siberutica*), by the conformation of the external transparent area of the forewing (trapeziform, level to vein M1 ca 4.2 times (male) or about twice (female) broader than discal spot; distal margin of cell between veins R1 and R4 slightly exceeding the distal margins of cells between veins R4+5–CuA in *A. siberutica*) and by the conformation of both male and female genitalia [compare Figs 11–15 with figs 5–8 in Gorbunov, 2015]. From other congeners, such as *A. ignicauda*, *A. jinghongen-
sis, A. polyphaga and A. subtillima. A. subaurata clearly differs by the coloration of the anal tuft (with bright red-orange, brick-red or fiery-red scales medially in all these species compared).

BIONOMICS. The host plant and larval bionomics are unknown. The specimens of the study material were collected in mid-March.

HABITAT. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. At present, this species is known to occur at two localities in the south of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

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References