A new species of the genus *Pyrophleps* Arita et O. Gorbunov, 2000 (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) from Laos, with remarks on the genus

**Новый вид рода Pyrophleps Arita et O. Gorbunov, 2000 (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) из Лаоса, с заметками о роде**

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**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА.** Osminiini, бабочки-стеклянницы, новый вид, Ориентальный региона.

**ABSTRACT** A redescription of the genus *Pyrophleps* Arita et O. Gorbunov, 2000 and a description of the new species *Pyrophleps zamesovi sp.n.* from Laos is presented. The holotype of the new species is deposited in the collections of the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. Female and the larval host plant of the new species are unknown.

**РЕЗЮМЕ.** Приведено переописание рода *Pyrophleps* Arita et O. Gorbunov, 2000 и описание нового вида *Pyrophleps zamesovi sp.n.* из Лаоса. Голотип нового вида хранится в коллекции Института проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова Российской академии наук в Москве. Самка и кормовое растение гусениц неизвестны.

**Introduction**

Despite the intensification of research on the fauna of clearing moths (Sesiidae) in Southeast Asia in the last couple of decades [Arita, Gorbunov, 2000a, b, 2001, 2002, 2003; Gorbunov, Arita, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2018, 2019, 2020a–c; Kallies, Arita, 2001, 2004a, b, 2005, 2006; Gorbunov, 2015a, b, 2018, 2021a, b], the degree of its knowledge should be considered extremely low. This fully applies to Laos. Only nine sesiid species are known from the country for the time being [Arita et al., 2019; Arita, Gorbunov, 2000a; Gorbunov, 2015b, 2021a, b; Kallies, Stolc, 2018; Kallies et al., 2020].

In their recent publication, Kallies and Štolc [2018] synonymized the genus *Pyrophleps* Arita et O. Gorbunov, 2000 with the genus *Aschistophleps* Hampson, 1893. I pointed out the erroneousness of this nomenclatural act, restored the genus *Pyrophleps* from synonyms and described a new genus [Gorbunov, 2021a]. Here I can only add that with the mentioned nomenclatural act of synonymization of the genus *Pyrophleps*, neither representatives of the genus *Aschistophleps* nor of the genus *Pyrophleps* were dealt with.

A very successful expedition to Laos in 2005 resulted in the collection of a great number of clearing moths [Gorbunov, 2015b]. After a detailed study, one representative of the genus *Pyrophleps* turned out to be a new species. Now, having at hand three species of this genus, I can somewhat clarify the diagnosis of the genus.

Below is a redescription of the genus *Pyrophleps* and a description of the new species *Pyrophleps zamesovi sp.n.* This is my fourth report on the results of a very successful 2005 expedition to Laos [Gorbunov, 2015, 2021a, b].

The description is made using a Leica EZ4 stereo microscope with LED illuminations, and images are taken with a Sony® α450 DSLR camera equipped with a Minolta® 50 f/2.8 Macro lens. The head figures are taken with a Keyence® VHX-1000 Digital Microscope, but these of the genitalia are taken with a Keyence® BZ-9000 Biorevo Fluorescence Microscope. The processing of all illustrations is finalized with the Adobe® Photoshop® CC 2020 software.

All labels of the holotype are cited verbatim. The labels of geographical data, imaging data and genitalia preparation numbers are printed on white paper, but the type label is printed on red paper. Each label is separated by a semicolon “;” lines in a label are separated by a slash “/”. All pictures of the specimens are labeled with a number, consisting of letters and digits: name of the family, two consecutive digits separated by n-dash and a year following m-dash (e.g. SESI-
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IDAE pictures №№ 0017-0018–2020). These letter and digit codes correspond to the numbering system of the figured specimens in the author’s archive. The genitalia preparation is stored in a microtube with glycerol and pinned under the specimen. The dissected genitalia are equipped with the corresponding number placed in the microtube. This number as a label (e.g. Genitalia preparation № OG–006-2021) is pinned under the specimen and is listed in the archives of the author.

The type material of the new species is kept in the collection of the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia (COGM).

The names of plants are given in accordance with The Plant List [2013].

**Taxonomic account**

*Pyrophleps* Arita & O. Gorbunov, 2000


REDESCRIPTION. Brightly-coloured, small-sized, long-legged clearwing moths with alar expanse 13–19 mm. Superficially resembling the genus *Aschistophleps* Hampson, 1893.

Head with antenna strongly clavate, without cilia in male; frons smooth-scaled; labial palpus (Figs 1–4) long, directed ahead, tufted with long hair-like scales on mid joint; compound eyes distinctly bean-shaped; proboscis well-developed, long, functional; vertex covered with short hair-like scales. Thorax smooth-scaled, both metapleural and metameron with long hair-like scales posteriorly. Fore tibia tufted with long hair-like scales at posterior margin; hind leg with distal half of tibia and 1–2 basal tarsomeres tufted with long hair-like scales. Abdomen smooth-scaled, anal tuft nearly undeveloped. Forewing with transparent areas rather well-developed, cells of external transparent area divided into two cells by a scaled line; veins R₃+₄ and R₅ arising from a common point. Hindwing transparent, discal spot narrow, reaching base of vein M₃; vein M₄ arises from vein CuA₁ slightly basal to cross-vein.

MALE GENITALIA (Figs 23–26). Uncus with a semi-oval plate of long hair-like setae lateral-apically, covering tuba analis like a collar; gnathos narrow, long, distinctly protruding caudally; valva gradually widens towards the center, and then narrows rather sharply towards the apex, making distal half spear-shaped, densely covered with short and very thin hair-like setae; saccus short but broad, about as long as vinculum, straight basally; aedeagus relatively long, about 1.5 times as long as valva; vesica with numerous, minute cornuti.

FEMALE. Unknown.


DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. With their elongated legs, representatives of this genus are slightly similar to those of genus Aschistosthops Hampson, 1893. From this genus compared, Pyrophleps can be distinguished by the structure of the labial palpus (longer, directed ahead, tufted with long hair-like scales on mid joint in Pyrophleps, vs. rather shorter, turned-up, without a tuft of hair-like scales on mid joint in the genus compared); shape of the compound eyes (distinctly pear-shaped, with few reddish-orange scales laterally; tegula black with dark orange scales; vertex black with greenish-violet sheen, densely mixed with black with greenish-violet sheen and reddish-orange sheen; frons entirely black with greenish-violet sheen stripe in basal half externally; fore femur entirely dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen; fore tibia dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, dorsally with a few white scales with electric-purple hue at base and a tuft of elongated brick-red scales externally; for tarsus ventrally dark brown to black with bronze sheen, dorsally black with blue-violet sheen and a few white scales with electric-purple hue at base of three basal tarsomeres; mid coxa white internally and dark grey-brown with bronze-purple sheen externally; mid femur black with blue-violet sheen; mid tibia dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, dorsally with a narrow white stripe in basal half and a few brick-red elongated scales medially; spurs externally dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, internally white; mid tarsus dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, four basal tarsomere narrowly white basally and with a small white spot with electric-purple hue dorsally at base; hind coxa dark grey-brown with bronze-purple sheen with a few white scales internally; hind femur black with blue-violet sheen; hind tibia black with greenish-blue sheen, a tuft of elongated brick-red and a few white scales medially-dorsally and brick-red scales externally-distally; spurs externally dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, internally white; hind tarsus black with greenish-violet sheen with a few white scales with electric-purple hue basally and brick-red elongated scales externally on basal tarsomere, ventrally with a few white scales basally on three basal tarsomeres.

Forewing dorsally black with dark green-violet sheen; ventrally dark brown to black with dark violet sheen; transparent areas well-developed, in distal half covered with brownish semi-hyaline scales with electric-blue hue; anterior and posterior transparent areas long, exceeding level of discal spot of hindwing; external transparent area rather large, divided into ten cells between veins R_{5-6}, Cu_{A}; (cells between veins R_{5-6}, Cu_{A} divided into two additional cells by a narrow scaled stripe); apical area narrow, about as broad as cilia; cilia dark brown with dark bronze sheen dorsally and bronze sheen ventrally.

Hindwing transparent; dorsally distal half covered by brownish semi-hyaline scales with electric-blue hue; veins, discal spot and outer margin black with dark violet sheen; ventrally veins, discal spot and outer margin black with dark violet sheen; discal spot narrow, reaching vein M_{2}; outer margin narrow, about as broad as cilia; cilia dark brown with dark bronze sheen dorsally and bronze sheen ventrally, analy white.

Abdomen dorsally black with dark violet sheen; distal row of scales of tergites 3, 7 and 8 each whitish; distal row of scales of tergites 4–6 each with whitish scales laterally; ventrally abdomen dark grey-brown with greenish-violet sheen and admixture of individual whitish scales; anal tuft very small black with dark violet sheen.

Male genitalia (paratype) (genital preparation № OG–006–2021) (Figs 23–24). Tegumen-uncus complex narrow laterally but broad ventrally; uncus with a semi-oval plate of long hair-like setae ventro-apically, covering tube analis like a collar, gnathos narrow, elongated, distinctly protruding caudally;

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valva gradually widens towards the center, and then narrows rather sharply towards the apex, making distal half spear-shaped, densely covered with short and very thin hair-like setae; saccus short but broad, about as long as vinculum, straight basally; aedeagus relatively long, about 1.2 times as long as valva; vesica with numerous, minute cornuti.

**Female.** Unknown.

**INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY.** Slightly varying in the number of reddish-orange scales on the labial palpus (Figs 1–2) and brick-red scales on the fore tibia and hind leg tuft (Figs 5–6, 11–22). In addition, the size of the transparent areas of the forewing slightly varies. Besides this, this new species is rather variable in size: alar expanse: 15.2–18.9 mm; body length 9.0–12.0 mm; forewing 7.0–9.5; antenna 4.2–5.8 mm.

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**Figs 11–16. Variability of *Pyrophleps zamesovi* sp.n.**


DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. By the structure of the transparent areas of the forewing this new species is closely related to *P. vitripennis* and *P. ellawi*. From the first species *P. zamesovi* sp.n. differs by the colouration of the labial palpus (exterior-dorsally dark brown with green-bronze sheen in *P. vitripennis*, vs. exterior-dorsally mixed with black with greenish-violet sheen and reddish-orange scales in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.; cp. Figs 1–2 with Fig. 4), fore tibia

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(dark brown to black with green-violet sheen and a large white spot dorso-basally in the species compared, vs. dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, dorsally with a few white scales with electric-purple hue at base and a tuft of elongated brick-red scales externally in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.) and hind tibia (dark brown to black with strong green sheen, with a narrow white stripe interior-ventrally from base of tibia to base of mid spurs, a narrow white ring at base of mid spurs, and with brick-orange scales interior-distally in *P. vitripennis*, vs. black with greenish-blue sheen, a tuft of elongated brick-red and a few white scales medial-dorsally and brick-red scales exterior-distally in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.; cp. Figs 5–6 with Figs 9–10), and by the narrow discal spot of the hindwing (visibly broader in *P. vitripennis*, cp. Fig. 5 with Fig. 9). In addition, these two species are clearly distinguished by the structure of the male genitalia, especially by the shape of the valva [compare Figs 23–24 with figs 15a–d in Arita, Gorbunov, 2000a].

From *P. ellawi*, *P. zamesovi* sp.n. can be separated by the colouration of the pericephalic hairs (white with several orange scales dorsally and black ventrally in the species compared, vs. orange dorsally and white laterally in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.), tegula (black with blue sheen and a narrow orange inner margin in *P. ellawi*, vs. black with dark blue-violet sheen and a few reddish-orange scales at base of forewing in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.), hind tibia (black with admixture of white and brick-orange scales interior-distally in *P. ellawi*, vs. black with greenish-blue sheen, a tuft of elongated brick-red and a few white scales medial-dorsally and brick-red scales exterior-distally in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.; cp. Figs 5–6, 11–22 with fig. 3 in Skowron Volponi, Volponi, 2017) and by the shape of the valva in the male genitalia [compare Fig. 23 with fig. 4 in Skowron Volponi, Volponi, 2017].

From *P. nigripennis*, *P. zamesovi* sp.n. can be easily distinguished by the colouration of the labial palpus (without reddish-orange scales in the species compared), fore tibia (dark brown to black with bronze-purple sheen, dorsally with a few pale yellow-orange scales posterior-basally in *P. nigripennis*, vs. dark brown to black with blue-violet sheen, dorsally with a few white scales with electric-purple hue at base and a tuft of elongated brick-red scales externally in *P. zamesovi* sp.n.; cp. Figs 5–6, 11–22 with Figs 7–8) and by the structure of the male genitalia [compare Figs 23–24 with Figs 25–26].

**BIONOMICS.** The larval host plant is unknown. The specimens of the type series exhibited a typical mud-puddling behaviour. All of them were found among bees and wasps on wet soil on the bank of a small stream.

**HABITAT.** The type series was collected on wet soil on the banks of the Nam Sanam stream in a primary, monsoon, semi-deciduous, lowland, tropical forest with *Dipterocarpus alatus* Roxb. ex G.Don, *Hopea odorata* Roxb., *H. ferrea*.
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**DISTRIBUTION.** The new species is known only from the type locality in Laos.

**ETYMOLOGY.** This new species is named after my friend Alexei Nikolaevich Zamesov (Moscow, Russia), an excellent lepidopterist who always helps me in my research.

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**References**


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