

**FIRST REPORT OF THE MOTH *XYLOPHYLLA*
PUNCTIFASCIA (LEECH, 1900) (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA:
EREBIDAE) FROM INDIA**

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Introduction

The moth *Xylophylla punctifascia* (Leech, 1900) was described from the Omei Shan in Szechuan province of S.W. China. Originally described in the genus *Phyllodes* Boisduval, 1832, Hampson erected the genus *Xylophylla* for it. Later, the species *X. staudingeri* (Semper, 1901); *X. eyndhovii* (Vollenhoven, 1858); *X. roseigera* (Butler, 1883); *X. verhuei* (Vollenhoven, 1858); *X. conspicillator* (Cramer, 1777) were also transferred to it. Of these species, all except one, i.e. *X. staudingeri*, is now known from India.

Material Examined

A single individual of *X. punctifascia* was photographed at MV light on 23.v.2012 at Dzuleke (1200 m), Nagaland. Two years later, another specimen was observed on 29.vii.2014 at Benrue (1300 m), Peren district, Nagaland.

Discussion

Although the specimens were not collected, the species is so distinct that it is possible to place it to species level on the basis of the photographs reproduced below. The moth is also known from Chiang Mai province of Thailand (Kononenko, 2013).

The individuals observed were attracted to the light late in the evening. They did not rest on the white sheet, but on the ground among low growing plants. Leech (1900) in the original description, mentions that this species represents a dead leaf in shape and markings of the forewing.

There appears to be a single annual generation from May to July, since normally large moths like this cannot complete a life cycle within two months. It has not been recorded in other months of the year at the same locations. The type series from China was also recorded in July. All known members of the genus are attracted to light.

References

Leech, J.H. 1900. Lepidoptera Heterocera from Northern China, Japan and Korea. Part IV. *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.* 511-663.

Kononenko V. S. & A. Pinratana. 2013. *Moths of Thailand Vol. 3, Part 2. Noctuoidea. An illustrated Catalogue of Erebidae, Nolidae, Euteliidae and Noctuidae (Insecta, Lepidoptera) in Thailand.* Brothers of St. Gabriel in Thailand. Bangkok. 625 pp.



Fig: *Xylophylla punctifascia*