

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CASEMOTH
(LEPIDOPTERA, PSYCHIDAE)*By Charles G. Oke*

National Museum of Victoria

Plate XV, Figs 1-8

The family Psychidae is fairly well represented in Australia, some of the species being very common and widely spread, but fourteen of the species are, according to Turner's list¹, only known from single specimens. Very little is known about the biology of Australian species, but even so, there can be no excuse for Meyrick and Lower in 1907², or Turner in 1945¹, stating that the females are legless. Westwood in 1845³ figures several females showing their legs.

Plutorectis caespitosae sp. nov.

♂ 22-24 mm. across wings. Derm of body black, nitid, normally concealed by long dense clothing which is mostly fuscous brown, but on head and prothorax becoming a pale ochreous and very sericeous; anterior margin of wings blackish, elsewhere the scales on wings cinereous; cilia cinereous, with a golden tint.

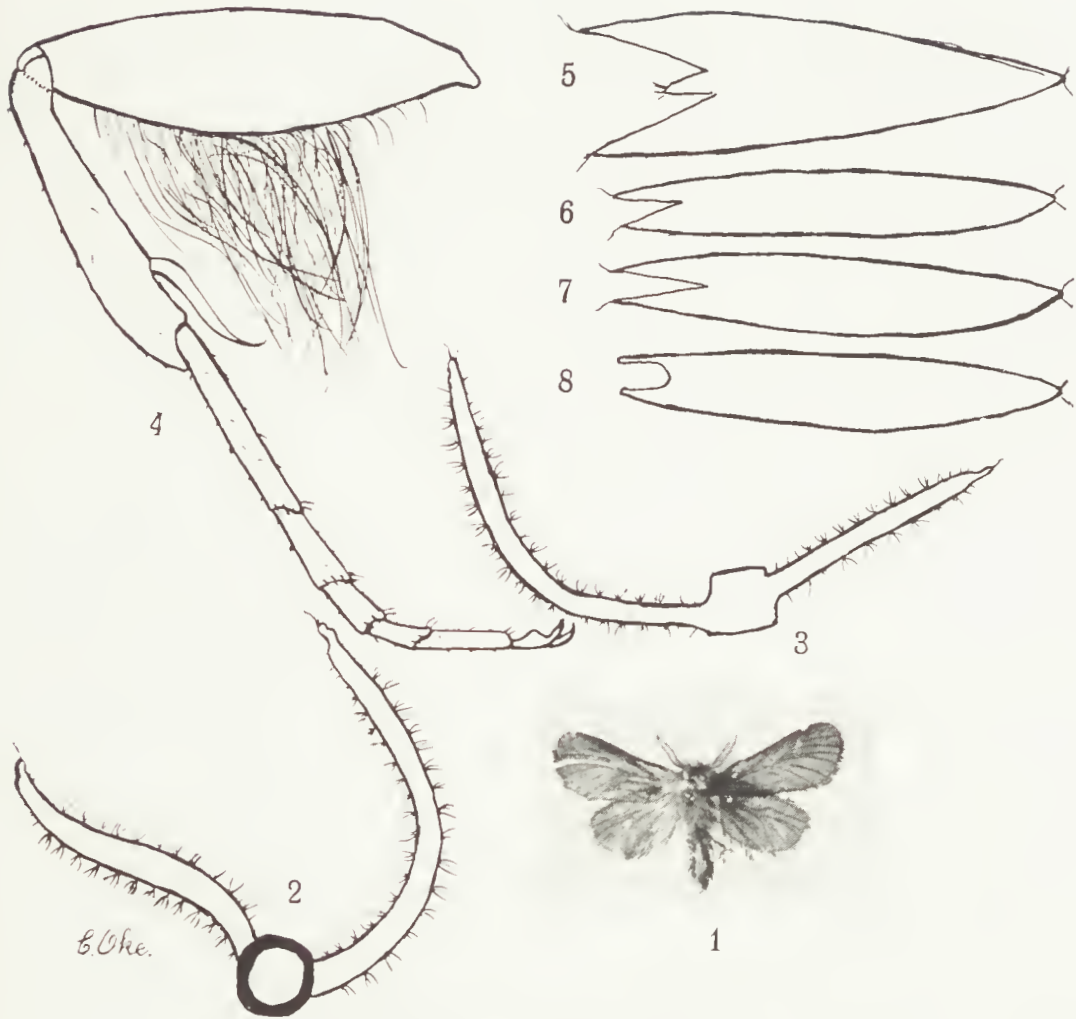
Eyes small. Antennal pectinations 7; stem dingy ochreous, pectinations fuscous. Forewings with costa straight almost to apex, apex rounded; termen rounded. Hind wings with apex lightly rounded; termen rather strongly rounded.

♀ 14 mm. long. Much degraded. Legs appearing much like those of a larva. Head apparently without appendages.

Habitat.—Victoria: Bogong High Plains in January (Miss L. White). Type Locality: Mt. Hotham (C. Oke); New South Wales, Mt. Kosciusko (Amos Williams in Dec., C. E. Chadwick 313-48). Feeding on *Poa caespitosa* G. Forst.

Type ♂ and Allotype ♀ in collections of National Museum of Victoria.

Fairly close to *P. capnaea* Turn. but differs in being more robust, with the wings narrower and, especially the hind wings, not so strongly bowed on the termen. The colour is paler, and the cilia is not dark fuscous. The antennal pectinations are about 1½ wider. Also the scales are different: most of the scales on the



1. *Plutorcelis caespitosa*, sp. nov.
2. Antennal segment—through antenna.
3. " " —from above.
4. Portion of front leg, to show tarsus.
5. Scale from fore wing, near costa.
- 6 and 7. Main types of scales on wings.
8. Scale from *P. capnata* Turn.

wings have an acute V-shaped notch, as against those of *capnaea* which are distinctly U-shaped.

REFERENCES

1. Turner, A. Jefferis, Proc. Roy. Soc. Queens., LVII (1945), p. 57, 1947.
2. Meyrick, E., and Lower, O., Trans. Roy. Soc. S.A., XXXI, p. 192, 1907.
3. Westwood, J. O., Proc. Zoo. Soc. London, XXII, p. 219, pl. XXXIV-VII, 1854.