Systematics of Schinia cupes (Grote) complex: Revised status of Schinia crotchii (Hy. Edwards) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Heliothinae)

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Abstract

The revised status of Schinia crotchii is based on differences in male and female genital structures and distribution of larval host plant. Schinia navarra Dyar remains a synonym of S. cupes (Grote). Genitalia of both sexes of S. crotchii, S. cupes, and S. deserticola Barnes and McDunough are described and illustrated for the first time. Distributions of larval hosts of both S. crotchii and S. deserticola are mapped and compared with adult moth distributions.

Key words: systematics, genitalia, morphology comparison, host plant, Calylophus berlandiera Spach var. berlandiera, Camissonia claviformis

Introduction

We are currently preparing a fascicle on the Noctuidae subfamily Heliothinae for the “Moths of America North of Mexico” series. Several projects must be resolved before this fascicle can be completed. One of these is a phylogeny of Schinia, the most diverse genus in the subfamily, currently with 112 species (Hardwick 1996). We have discovered taxonomic problems within several species complexes that must be resolved before a phylogeny can be constructed. The most efficient way to treat such a large genus is to define and revise species groups within Schinia based on morphological characters within the context of a phylogeny. This paper addresses one of these species complexes.

During routine dissections of Schinia cupes (Grote), as defined by Hardwick (1996), it was discovered that the large hair pencil on the second sternite of the male was either
present or absent in various specimens. Further research revealed that specimens lacking a hair pencil were referable to *Schinia crotchii* (Hy. Edwards), and those with a hair pencil to *S. cupes*. Hardwick (1996) reared *S. crotchii* (identified as *S. cupes*) from *Calylophus berlandiera* Spach var. *berlandiera* (Onagraceae) (misidentified as *Orthocarpus purpurascens* Bentham) from Riverside Co., California. When the host plant distribution was plotted (Fig. 22) it matched the distribution of *S. crotchii* and not *S. cupes*. The host plant of *S. cupes* remains unknown. Hardwick (1996) treated *S. deserticola* Barnes and McDunnough as a separate species and not a subspecies as did the original authors. *Schinia deserticola* is easily separated from *S. crotchii* by the light coloration of the forewing as compared with the much darker *S. crotchii*. Both *S. crotchii* and *S. deserticola* have the male abdominal hair pencil, but there are 3 coils in the vesica of *S. deserticola* (Fig. 15) versus 4 coils in that of *S. crotchii* (Fig. 13).

Specimens were examined from the following institutions and private collections: American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY (AMNH); Charles E. Harp private collection, Littleton, CO (CH); Canadian National Collection, Ottawa, ON (CNC); Colorado State University collection (CSU); Edward C. Knudson private collection, Houston, TX (ECK); Eric H. Metzler private collection, Columbus, OH (EHM); James K. Adams private collection, Calhoun, GA (JKA); Oklahoma State University collection, Stillwater, OK (OKS); Oregon State University collection, Corvallis, OR (OSUC); Ronald Leuschner private collection, Manhattan Beach, CA (RL); Texas Lepidoptera Atlas by Bordelon and Knudson (TLA); University of Arizona collection, Tucson, AZ (UAT); University of Idaho collection, Moscow, ID (UIM); and National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC (USNM).

**Schinia cupes** (Grote)
(Figs.1–2, 7, 10–11, 16, 19, 22)

*Trichosellus navarra*; McDunnough 1938: 106.

**Diagnosis.** There are no differences in maculation between *S. cupes* and *S. crotchii*. They are separable by distribution with *S. cupes* occurring from Colorado and New Mexico, east to Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas and *S. crotchii* from Arizona and Utah, west to California and Washington. The second abdominal sternite in the male of *S. cupes* bears a pair of hair pencils (Fig. 7), which are absent in *S. crotchii* (Fig. 8). In the male aedoeagus, the vesica
has 4 coils in *S. cupes* (Fig. 11) and 3 coils in *S. crotchii* (Fig. 13). In the female genitalia the papillae anales are more pointed in *S. cupes* (Fig. 19) and more broadly rounded in *S. crotchii* (Fig. 20). The ductus bursae is narrower at the base of the ostium bursae in *S. cupes* (Fig. 16) and wider in *S. crotchii* (Fig. 17).

**Description.** Male: **Head:** Cream mixed with some black scales; short scales on frons and long hairlike scales on vertex. Labial palpus white basally with remainder brown mixed with a few white scales. Eyes large and globular. **Thorax:** Mixture of white hairlike and spatulate scales with a tapered stalk, tapered scales white with brown apices. Foreleg femur with ventral fringe and inner surface light brown, outer surface white with some brown scales; tibia white and light brown, largest and stoutest spine on inner side and closest to basitarsus, two slender spines dorsal to it, outer side with four stout spines becoming shorter and less robust dorsally; tarsi brown with white apical rings. Mid- and hindlegs white and brown; tarsi white and brown with white apical rings. Underside white. **Forewing:** Length 12.0–14.5 mm (n=10). Ground color light brown; antemedial line white and sinuate; claviform spot light brown outlined in brown; orbicular spot outlined with brown and with a small central white dash; reniform spot outlined with brown and with a small central white angulate dash; postmedial line white and sinuate; subterminal line a series of white arrowheads between veins and with a brown spot at their tips; outer margin with elongate brown marks between veins; fringe brown mixed with white. Underside white with orbicular and reniform spots; postmedial band brown. **Hindwing:** Ground color white with a brown discal spot and marginal band, with a few white spots along margin; veins in white discal area highlighted with brown scales. **Abdomen:** Dorsum white mixed with brown, venter mostly white mixed with some brown scales; hair pencils and associated scent pockets on second sternite present (Fig. 7). **Genitalia** (Figs. 10–11): Uncus elongate, approximately 0.3 X length of valve, apex blunt. Valve elongate (length greater than 7 X width), costal margin distinctly curved at 4/5 length, posterior margin gently curved to a truncate apex; ampulla elongate; sacculus with ventral margin produced. Juxta quadrate with a curved dorsal margin. Saccus V-shaped. Aedoeagus slightly curved; vesica with a basal diverticulum and 4 coils.

Female: As in male except forewing length 14.0–15.0 mm (n=10). **Genitalia** (Figs. 16, 19): Papillae anales lightly sclerotized, broadly triangulate, apex narrowly rounded; anterior apophyses approximately 0.95 times length of posterior apophyses; ductus bursae narrow widening beyond middle to more than twice width at ostium bursae, elongate (approximately 1.8 times length of corpus bursae); appendix bursae longer than corpus bursae, with 3 coils; corpus bursae ovate; signa consists of 4 scobinate bars.

**Type material.** *Heliothis cupes* Grote: Male holotype is in The Natural History Museum, London. Type locality: Texas. *Schinia navarra* Dyar: Male holotype is in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Type locality: Cotulla, Texas (type no. 19076).
Biology. *Schinia cupes* is associated with sandy plains, and with *Calylophus berlandiera* Spach var. *berlandiera* (Onagraceae), although its life history is unknown. This plant overlaps the distribution of *S. cupes* and is found at many of its collection localities. Harp observed two males resting on Berlandier’s sundrops (*C. berlandiera*) at Big Springs, TX (Howard Co.) in April 2003. He further observed that adults fly in and around the proximity of their hostplants during the early morning. In addition, males can also be seen on gravelly/sandy openings until late morning awaiting receptive females. As temperatures rise during late morning, adults disappear to shady areas where they presumably “rest.” Adults were attracted to lights in suitable habitat.

*Schinia cupes* has two broods with the first flying from late-March to mid-June and a second smaller brood flying in late-July to September (Fig. 24). The earliest and latest flights are in the southern part of its range, and in the northern part, a compressed single brood flies in June.

Across much of its range, *S. cupes* flies with *S. simplex* Smith, *S. citrinella* (Grote and Robinson), *S. rosettitincta* (Harvey), and *S. errans* Smith during the first brood, and flies with *S. saturata* (Grote), *S. nubila* (Strecker), *S. coercita* (Grote), *S. citrinella*, *S. mortua* (Grote), and *S. bicuspida* Smith during the second brood.

**Distribution** (Fig. 22). Texas, west to New Mexico, and north to Kansas and Colorado.

**Material Examined.** All specimens are from USNM, except as noted otherwise.


Discussion. Grote (1875) placed S. cupes in Heliothis where it remained until he transferred it to Trichosellus (Grote 1890). In McDunnough’s (1938) checklist, S. cupes was retained in Grote’s genus Trichosellus, and S. crotchii was treated as a synonym. Smith (1883) correctly placed S. cupes in Schinia.

Schinia crotchii (Hy. Edwards) Revised Status
(Figs. 3–4, 8, 12–13, 17, 20, 22)

Diagnosis. See discussion under S. cupes.

Description. The maculation of S. crotchii is indistinguishable from that of S. cupes. The descriptions of the abdomen and genitalia only address the differences between S. crotchii and S. cupes. Male: Abdomen: Hair pencils in male absent; scent pockets present (Fig. 8). Forewing: Length 12.0–13.0 mm (n=10). Genitalia (Figs. 12–13): As in S. cupes, but valve and saccus slightly narrower. Vesica with a basal diverticulum and 4 coils.

Female: As in male except forewing length 11.5–14.5 mm (n=10). Genitalia (Figs. 17, 20): Papillae anales broadly rounded with a broadly rounded apex; ductus bursae narrow widening beyond middle to less than twice width at ostium bursae.

Type material. Heliocthis crotchii Grote: Male holotype is in The Natural History Museum, London. Type locality: San Diego, California.

Biology. Hardwick (1996) described the early stages of of S. crotchii in detail, but the host plant was given as Orthocarpus purpurascens Bentham (Scrophulariaceae), which is now recognized as Castilleja exserta (Heller) Chuang & Heckard ssp. exserta. There are currently three recognized subspecies: latifolia (S. Wats.) Chuang & Heckard is reported from Marin Co., California; and venusta (Heller) Chuang & Heckard is reported from San Mateo Co., Santa Clara Co., southwestern San Bernardino Co., and eastern Kern Co., California. Herbarium records for the nominate subspecies match the distribution throughout the range of S. crotchii, except for those records in Washington and Idaho.

Distribution (Fig. 22). From southeastern Arizona west to the Peninsular Ranges of southern California and north in southeastern Washington and southern Idaho.

Material Examined. All specimens are from USNM, except as noted otherwise.

Discussion. Smith (1883) synonymized *S. crotchii* with *S. cupes* based on material from Washington Territory, which would make the species Smith was discussing *S. crotchii* and not *S. cupes.*

The distribution of larval host plant of *S. crotchii* is concordant with the distribution of the moth except for records in southeastern Washington and southern Idaho. Perhaps the plant is there but has never been collected. *Schinia crotchii* is single brooded (Fig. 24) and flies from early March to the end of May, with a single record from early June.

*Schinia deserticola* Barnes and McDunnough (Figs. 5–6, 9, 14–15, 18, 21, 23)


Diagnosis. The ground color in *S. deserticola* is a dirty white compared with light brown in both *S. cupes* and *S. crotchii.* The orbicular spot is distinct and more separated from the antemedial line in *S. deserticola* (Figs. 5–6) than in *S. cupes* and *S. crotchii* (Figs. 1–4). The hair pencils in the male abdomen are present in *S. deserticola* as they are in *S. cupes.* In the female genitalia the papillae anales have the ventral margin angulate in *S. deserticola* (Fig. 21) and straight in *S. cupes* and *S. crotchii* (Figs. 19–20).

Description. Male: Head: Frons cream with short narrow scales; vertex a mixture of white hairlike scales and tapered spatulate scales with brown apices. Labial palpus white with some light brown scales on middle and at apex of outer surface. Eyes large and globular. Thorax: Mixture of white hairlike and spatulate scales with tapered stalks, tapered scales white with brown apices. Foreleg femur and ventral fringe white; tibia white and light brown; largest and stoutest spine on inner side and closest to basitarsus; slender dorsal setae absent; outer side with three stout spines becoming shorter and less robust as they progress dorsally; tarsi light brown with white apical rings. Mid- and hindlegs white with some light brown scales; tarsi light brown with white apical rings. Underside white. Forewing: Length 10.5–14.5 mm (n=10). Ground color light brown; antemedial line white and sinuate; claviform spot absent; orbicular spot ground colored, outlined with brown with a light brown center; reniform spot ground colored outlined with brown and with a large light brown center; postmedial line white and sinuate; subterminal line white and irregular with a series of brown arrowheads between veins; outer margin with elongate brown marks between veins; fringe mixed brown and white. Underside white with light brown orbicular and reniform spots; wide light brown postmedial band, variable in intensity, extends from costa to vein CuA2, in some specimens band extends to posterior mar-
Hindwing: ground color white, discal spot and marginal band brown, a few white spots along margin; veins in white discal area highlighted with brown scales. **Abdomen**: White; hair pencils and associated scent pockets on second sternite present (Fig. 9). **Genitalia** (Figs 14–15): As in *S. crotchii*, but valve slightly narrower. Vesica with a basal diverticulum and 3 coils.

**Female**: As in male except forewing length 10.5–14.5 mm (n=10). **Genitalia** (Figs 18, 21): Papillae anales lightly sclerotized, broad ventral margin angulate, apex narrowly rounded; anterior apophyses approximately 0.90 times to equal in length of posterior apophyses; ductus bursae widening beyond middle to less than twice width at ostium bursae.

**Type material.** *Schinia cupes deserticola* Barnes and McDunnough: Male lectotype designated by Hardwick (1996) is in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Type locality: southern Arizona.

**Biology.** The life history and descriptions of the immature stages of *deserticola* are given by Hardwick (1996). The larval plant host is *Camissonia claviformis* (Torr. & Frem.) Raven (Onagraceae).

**Distribution** (Fig. 23). Southern California to southeastern Arizona and north to west central Utah and southeastern Oregon.


**Discussion.** Barnes and McDunnough (1916) described *S. deserticola* as a subspecies of *S. cupes*. *Schinia deserticola* inhabits desert and other arid habitats. It is single brooded, flying from early March to early May, with a single record from early June. The peak flight period of *S. deserticola* is earlier than that of *S. crotchii* (Fig. 24).

The host plant distribution of *S. deserticola* matches well with the adult distribution (Fig. 23).

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**Literature cited**


FIGURE 22. Collecting localites for *Schinia cupes* (circles) and *S. crotchii* (squares), shaded area is distribution of host plant *Castilleja exserta exserta* (Onagraceae).

FIGURE 23. Collecting localites and shaded host plant distribution for *Schinia deserticola*, host plant *Camissonia claviformis* (Onagraceae).
FIGURE 24. Seasonal phenology of *Schinia cupes*, *S. crotchii*, and *S. deserticola*.