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NOTES ON THE GENUS *ASBOLOPSYCHE* KRÜGER, 2015 (LEPIDOPTERA: EREBIDAE: ARCTIINAE: LITHOSIINI) IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA, WITH DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES

SUMMARY

A convincing autapomorphy is described for the genus *Asbolopsyche* Krüger, 2015, and two species are herein proposed as new to science: *Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp. from Gabon, and *Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp. from Uganda.

RIASSUNTO

Si individua una probabile autapomorfia per il genere *Asbolopsyche* Krüger, 2015; si propongono due specie come nuove per la scienza: *Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp. del Gabon, and *Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp. dell'Uganda.

Key words: Afrotropical, Lithosiini, genus *Asbolopsyche*, new species.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Asbolopsyche* Krüger, 2015 was initially established as monotypic by KRÜGER (2015), based on the species *Asbolopsyche parasordida* (Kühne, 2007) from Kenya.

VOLYNKIN (2025) added three more species described as new.

KRÜGER (2015: 29) established the following diagnostic characters as defining the genus:

- dark irroration of the forewings;
- very unevenly sized dots on the forewings;
- unique development of sacculus.

The arrangement of the dots on the forewings (see Fig. 1 herein and Fig. 8

in DURANTE *et al.*, 2025b) also seems to be a good autapomorphy, as well as the morphological characters of the genitalia (see below in Results), of which VOLYNKIN (2025) identifies an extensive series.

The geographical distribution of the genus ranges widely, from East Africa (Kenya) to West Africa (Liberia) and to Zambia in the South.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Gabonese material used for this paper was collected by the author in the National Park of Ivindo during expeditions conducted from 2013 to 2015 in the

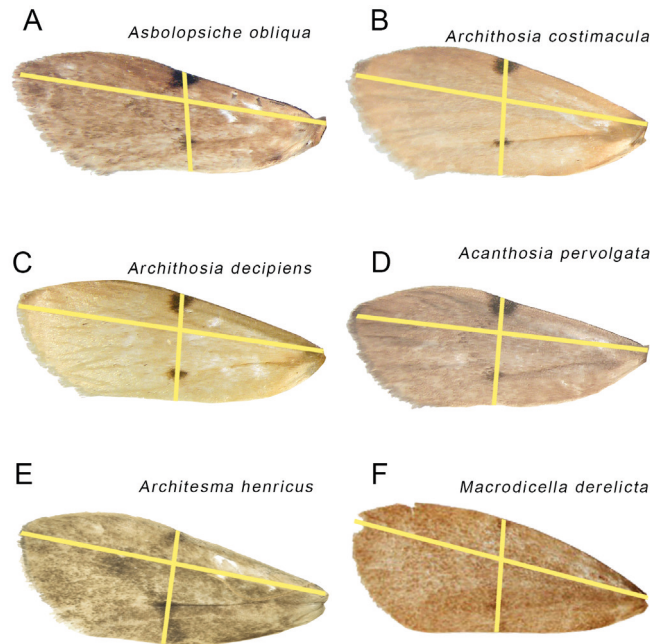


Fig. 1 - Left forewings of *Asbolopsycha* and related genera.

A – *Asbolopsycha obliqua* n. sp., holotype ♂, Gabon, Ipassa (Makokou), 14-24/3/2015, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1228 MAD; in MSNS. **B** – *Archithosia costimacula* (Mabille, 1878), ♀, Nigeria, Port Harcourt, 14/4/1997, Durante leg.; in MSNS. **C** – *Archithosia decipiens* (Holland, 1893), ♀, [Gabon?]; in CMNH. **D** – *Acanthosia pervolgata* Volynkin, 2025, ♂, Gabon, Ipassa (Makokou), 14-24/3/2015, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1276 MAD; in MSNS. **E** – *Architesma henricus* (Durante, Potenza & Pellegrino, 2024), holotype ♂, Uganda, Kibale forest, 19-24/10/2014, Durante leg.; in MSNS. **F** – *Macrodicella derelicta* (Debauche, 1942), ♂, Uganda, Kigezi District, Mt Mga-hinga, 22-27/11/1934, F. W. Edwards leg.; in NHMUK (<https://www.afromoths.net/species/39319> accessed on 17/7/2025).

months between December and March. The Ugandan material was collected on the edge of Kibale Forest (KNP) in south-western Uganda (0° 13' – 0° 41' N and 30° 17' – 30° 32' E) from 19 to 24 October 2014, during the international meeting of the 2nd Afrotropical Lepidoptera Workshop – Kibale Forest, Uganda, at Makerere University Biological Field Station near Fort Portal.

The National Park of Ivindo and its climate, along with the collection and preparation methods, are outlined in DURANTE and APINDA-LEGNOUNO (2020). Information on Kibale Forest is provided in DURANTE *et al.* (2024).

Moths were collected using vertical screens and light traps. For details, refer to DURANTE (2012) and DURANTE and APINDA-LEGNOUNO (2022).

The MSNS organizes scientific expeditions abroad since about 30 years, with agreement with local authorities and organizations. This led to assembly material from various countries (in South America, South-East Asia and Africa) that greatly enriched the museum collections. Most of this material is still awaiting for study and could deserve many new discoveries.

The methods for collecting, preparing and dissecting specimens follow ROBINSON (1976), DANG (1993), WINTER (2000) and DURANTE (2008), and are summarized in DURANTE and APINDA-LEGNOUNO (2022).

The terminology for the genitalia mainly follows BIRKET-SMITH (1965), with modifications (KLOTS 1970; SCOBLE 1992; HOLLOWAY *et al.*, 2001; KRISTENSEN 2003).

Genitalia were mounted under an Olympus SZX9 trinocular stereomicroscope and photographed using a Panasonic HDC-TM300 digital camera. Photographs of genitalia under a cover-glass at higher magnification were obtained using a Leica DMLD biological microscope. The images were improved and processed using PHOTOSHOP CC2015. The material is stored in the MSNS and the author's collections.

ABBREVIATIONS

A2	Second abdominal segment
ANPN	Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (Gabon)
CENAREST	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, Libreville, Gabon.
CuA₂	Second branch (i.e. posterior) of anterior cubital vein of the wing
Gen. sl. n.	number of the genitalia slide
IRAF	Institut de Recherches Agronomiques et Forestières, Libreville, Gabon.
IRET	Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale, Libreville, Gabon.
KNP	Kibale National Park, Uganda
MAD	acronym of the author

MSNS Museo di Storia naturale del Salento (Natural History
Museum of Salento), Calimera, Italy
NHMUK Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom

Museum acronyms follow EVENHUIS (2024).

RESULTS

Two new species from Gabon and Uganda are here added to the genus *Asbolopsyche*.

As signalled in the Introduction and reported in DURANTE *et al.* (2026), with respect to the *Archithosia* group of genera (VOLYNKIN, 2025), the arrangement of the black dots on the forewings in *Asbolopsyche* presents a convincing autapomorphy: the axis joining the costal and posterior dots cuts obliquely across the corda joining the wing's base to the apex (Fig. 1A), whereas in the *Archithosia* group it forms an almost perfect right angle (Figs. 1B-E). In addition, from the latter group we could exclude also *Macrodicella* Krüger, 2015 (Fig. 1F), whose arrangement of dots is similar, if not identical, to that of *Asbolopsyche*.

The new species both have a shallow saccus, as may also be observed for *Asbolopsyche parasordida* in the picture in KÜHNE (2007: 381), and for *A. jiwundu* Volynkin, 2025, *A. nyungwe* Volynkin, 2025 and *A. acanthosioides* Volynkin, 2025 (pictures in VOLYNKIN, 2025). This contrasts with the *Archithosia* group, in which the saccus is practically absent. The valvella, sensu BIRKET-SMITH (1965), are replaced in both *Asbolopsyche* and the *Archithosia* group of genera by a basal saccular process (VOLYNKIN 2025), probably performing the function of valvella. The simple shape of the vesica, its small size and the absence of cornuti also appear to distinguish the *Asbolopsyche* species from *Archithosia*.

***Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp.** (Figs. 1A, 2A-B, 3, 5)

Holotype: ♂, GABON, Ipassa (Makokou), 500 m, 0°30'43"N 12°48'13"E, 14-24/3/2015, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1228 MAD; in coll. MSNS.

Paratypes: ♂ GABON same locality as holotype, 4-13/12/2013, Durante leg., g. sl. n. 1200 MAD; in coll. MSNS. ♀, GABON, same data as male paratype, g. sl. n. 1201 MAD; in coll. MSNS.

Diagnosis. This species seems to be distinguishable from other *Asbolopsyche* species by the less dusted, more uniform colour of the forewings. Otherwise, the external features do not offer good diagnostic characters.

The morphology of the valvae (with a thick conical process in the middle of the dorsal margin of the ala valvae; Fig. 3 A) clearly distinguishes this species from its congenics, except for *A. acanthosioides*. The ala valvae of the latter, however, is slightly longer and more curved at the distal end, with longer spines on the conical process of the dorsal margin; it has a more sinuate basal saccular process (bp), which in *obliqua* n. sp. is rigidly L-shaped (Fig. 3F). The vesica of *acanthosioides* presents a cylindrical distal lobe, absent in *obliqua* n. sp.

Female genitalia very similar to those of congenics, but easily diagnosable by the different shape of the sterigma, with lamella antevaginalis crown-shaped, and lamella postvaginalis boat-shaped in *obliqua* n. sp.; signum could also be diagnostic: drop-like in *parasordida* and *acanthosioides*, irregularly trapezoidal in *jiwundu*, oval in *obliqua* n. sp (si; Fig. 5 D), oval also in *kibale* n. sp., but without spines on the bottom (Fig. 6 D).

Description. (Figs. 2A, B). Wingspan ♂ 29.5-31.9 mm (n. = 2), ♀ 35 mm (n. = 1). Head with vertex beige, frons yellow, clypeus blackish-brown; anten-

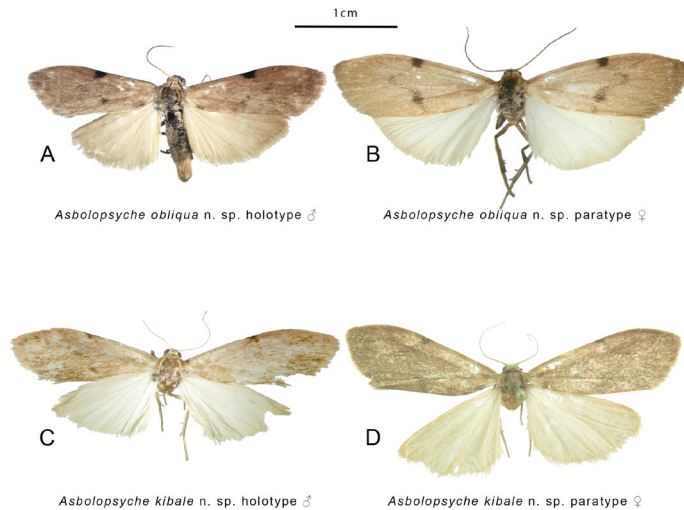


Fig. 2 - *Asbolopsyche* species.

A – *Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp., holotype ♂, Gabon, Ipassa (Makokou), 14-24/3/2015, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1228 MAD; in MSNS. **B** – *Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp., paratype ♀, Gabon, Ipassa (Makokou), 4-13/12/2013, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1228 MAD; in MSNS. **C** – *Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp., holotype ♂, Uganda, Kibale forest, 19-24/10/2014, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1195 MAD; in MSNS. **D** – *Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp., paratype ♀, Uganda, Kibale forest, 19-24/10/2014, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1310 MAD; in MSNS.

nae ciliated, more finely in the female, yellow at base with flagellum darkening to light beige from two thirds onwards, ventrally unpigmented; labial palpi porrect, not extending beyond frons, same colour as clypeus with a few yellow scales at apex. Patagia and tegulae beige with yellow margins; thorax dorsally lacking most of scales, probably same colour as forewings, ventrally dark brown. Legs blackish-brown with a few yellow scales at distal ends, mid- and hindlegs internally lighter; spurs formula 0-2-4.

Forewing upperside ground colour brown-dusted beige, costa bearing thin blackish-brown line from base to middle, base and inner margin tending to pure yellow; one costal triangular blackish-brown dot in middle, one smaller blackish-brown dot behind CuA_2 vein just before middle; angled band observed in *Asbolopsycha parasordida* and *Archithosia* species barely visible. Forewing underside unmarked, ground colour brown, with costa blackish-brown from base to middle, light-yellow fascia just behind subcostal margin and along inner margin. Hindwing upperside unmarked, ground colour light yellow, darkening towards costa and apex; underside same colour as upperside but costa and apex darker. Fringes concolorous with margins.

Abdomen dark brown, like thorax sternites, with yellow anal tuft. A2 sternum apodemes long (plesiomorphic character according to BENDIB and MINET (1999: 243), but see also HOLLOWAY (2001: 281)).

Genitalia. ♂ (Fig. 3). Uncus (uc) falcate, ending in sharp hook (Fig. 3B); tegumen (te) triangular in dorsal view; tuba analis (ta) about as long as uncus, membranous with very thin rod-like scaphium (sc) running along entire length (Fig. 3B); vinculum (vi) fairly thick, V-shaped (ventro-caudal view), forming shallow saccus; juxta (ju) somewhat X-shaped (Fig. 3F); basal sacculus process (bp) sturdy, L-shaped with curly distal end, directed outwards, proximally connected to bases of ala valvae; manica penis membranous, transtilla (tr, Fig. 3E) membranous, consisting of two opposed spindles.

Ala valvae (av) well sclerotised, pear-shaped with long neck ending in roundish process (tp) densely covered in thorns (Fig. 3D); ventral margin with a dozen thick thorns aligned at or just before middle; dorsal margin with well-developed sclerotised conical process (cp) covered in spines, margin between this process and distal end covered in short thick spines.

Supraalva membranous, as long as ala valvae and linked to this by basal third, slightly more slender than base of latter, tapering at distal end; processus basalis plicae (pb) dome-shaped, dorso-mesally directed.

Aedeagus (Fig. 3C) tubular, slightly widening at distal end, half as long as ala valvae, with small sclerotization (rs) on right-hand side at distal end; entrance of ductus ejaculatorius dorsal, coecum penis (cm) very short; vesica half as long as aedeagus, with main lobus ending in two smaller scobinate lobi (sl), second large lobus (bl) on left-hand side with granicula dorsally.

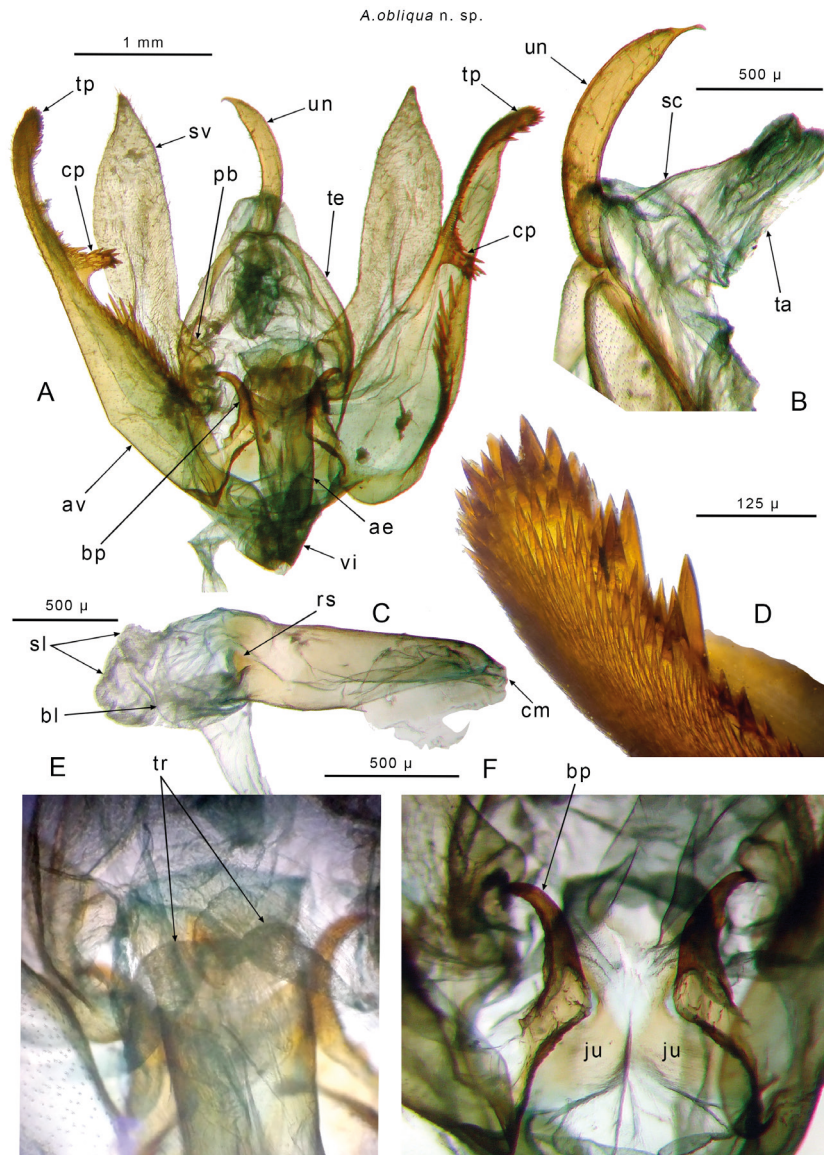


Fig. 3 - *Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp., holotype ♂, genitalia.
A – Whole genitalia, ventral view. **B** – Uncus, lateral view. **C** – Aedeagus, left side.
D – Distal end of ala valvae. **E** – Transtilla, dorsal view. **F** – Anellus, ventral view.
ae, aedeagus; **av**, ala valvae; **bl**, second lobus of vesica; **bp**, basal saccular process; **cp**, conical process of ala valvae; **cm**, coecum penis; **ju**, juxta; **pb**, processus basalis plicae; **rs**, sclerotization of aedeagus; **sc**, scaphium; **sl**, terminal lobi; **sv**, supravalva; **ta**, tuba analis; **te**, tegumen; **tp**, distal process of ala valvae; **tr**, transtilla; **un**, uncus; **vi**, vinculum.

♀ (Fig. 5). Seventh urite barely longer than sixth, with caudal margin folded inside to include eighth; lamella antevaginalis (la) well sclerotised, crown-shaped with three smoothed cuspids.

Eighth urite two thirds as long as seventh and half as wide; lamella post-vaginalis (lp) thick and membranous, boat-shaped, almost as wide as lamella antevaginalis.

Papillae anales (pa) smoothly squarish; anterior apophyses (aa) thick, about half as long as posterior apophyses (pp); posterior apophyses slender, one and half times longer than papillae anales; dorsal pheromone glands (pg; Fig. 5C) unpaired, with one wide posterior opening at intersegmental embrane between A8 and A9, anteriorly deeply bifurcated into two finger-like lobes slightly longer than papillae anales: right lobe with small thorn-like process at base, left lobe with distal bifurcation.

Ductus bursae (db) cylindrical, membranous, half length of corpus bursae; ductus seminalis arising dorsally from caudal end; corpus bursae (cb) membranous, large, spherical, with oval, concave, dorsal signum (si; Fig. 5D), strongly sclerotised, scobinate with tiny spines.

Etymology. The name of this species derives from the Latin “obliquum”, meaning oblique, referring to the arrangement of the black dots on the forewings, common in this genus.

***Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp.** (Figs. 2C-D, 4)

Holotype: ♂, UGANDA, Kibale forest, 1,500 m, 0°33'40"N 30°21'24"E, 19-24/10/2014, Durante leg., gen. sl. n. 1195 MAD; in coll. MSNS.

Paratype: ♂ UGANDA, same data as holotype, Durante leg., g. sl. n. 1196 MAD; in coll. MSNS. ♀ UGANDA, same data as holotype, Durante leg., g. sl. n. 1310 MAD; in coll. MSNS

Diagnosis. Very similar to other *Asbolopsyche* species, although in *A. obliqua* n. sp. the upper side of the forewings seems to have a less dusted appearance.

It differs clearly from *A. parasordida* in the morphology of the valvae, with a dense presence of robust thorns along the basal half of the ventral margin of the ala valvae and along the distal half of its dorsal margin, whereas in *parasordida* the margins of the ala valvae present very small thorns (setae in Kühne, 2007: 356). *A. kibale* n. sp. does not present the thick process seen on the dorsal margin of the ala valvae of *A. obliqua* n. sp., and it has a more curved and thinner basal saccular process (bp, Fig. 4 D). It is closely related

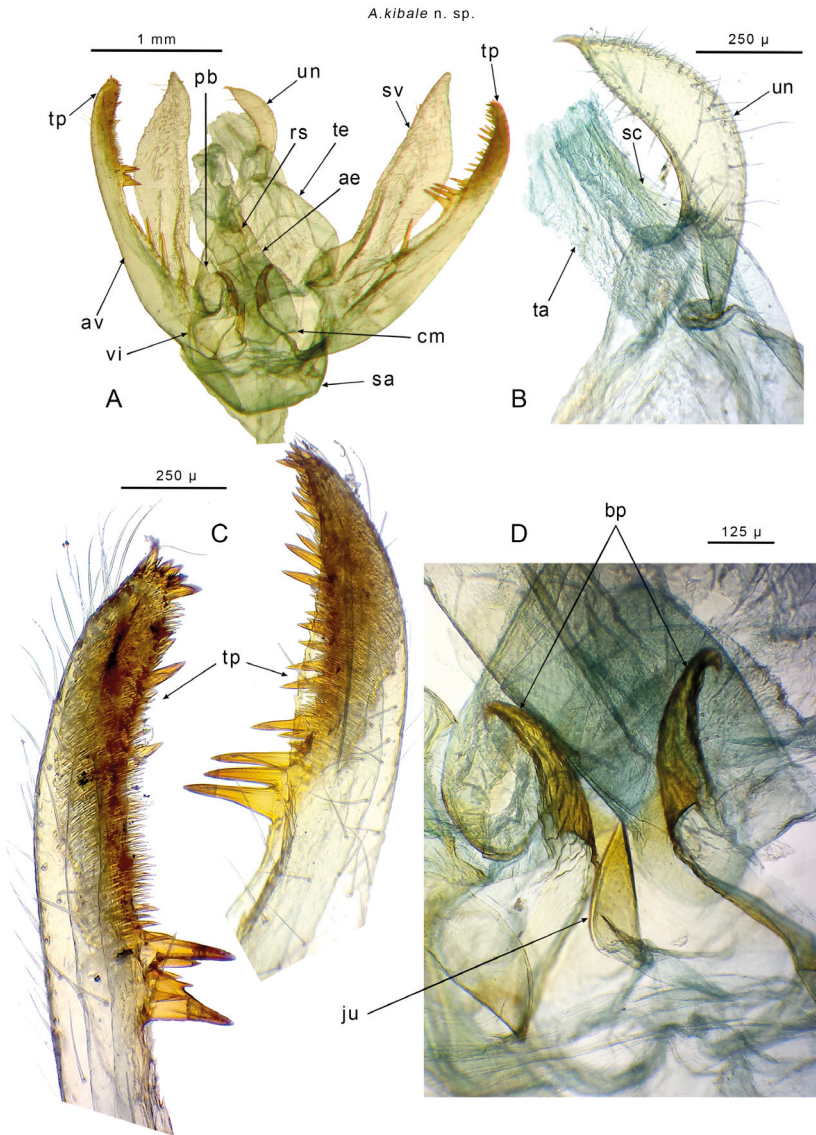


Fig. 4 - *Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp., holotype ♂, genitalia.
A – Whole genitalia, ventral view. **B** – Uncus, lateral view. **C** – Distal ends of alae valvae. **D** – Anellus, ventral view.
ae, aedeagus; **av**, ala valvae; **bp**, basal saccular process; **cm**, coecum penis; **ju**, juxta; **pb**, processus basalis plicae; **rs**, sclerotization of aedeagus; **sa**, saccus; **sc**, scaphium; **sv**, supraalva; **ta**, tuba analis; **te**, tegumen; **tp**, distal process of ala valvae; **un**, uncus; **vi**, vinculum.

to *A. nyungwe*, but distinguishable thanks to the more pointed distal end of the supra-valva (similar to *acanthosioides* and *parasordida*, but more rounded in *nyungwe*), the small number (about six) of robust thorns on the ventral margin of the ala valvae (more than 15 of unequal size in *nyungwe*), and the shape of the vesica, which does not present the long distal lobe observed in *nyungwe*.

Female genitalia easily diagnosable by the different shape of the sterigma, with two evident pointed cuspids (Fig. 6 B), and signum oval without spines on the bottom (Fig. 6 D).

Description. (Figs. 2C, D). Wingspan ♂ 28.6-31 mm (n. = 2), ♀ 33.5 mm (n. = 1). Head with posterior half of vertex beige, anterior half yellow like frons; clypeus beige-dusted yellow; antennae ciliated, more finely in the female, yellow, ventrally unpigmented; labial palpi porrect, not extending beyond frons, same colour as clypeus with tip darkening externally and light yellow internally. Patagia and tegulae beige with lighter margins; thorax both dorsally and ventrally same colour as anterior part of vertex. Legs same colour as thorax, forelegs darker, mainly on external surface of femurs; spurs formula 0-2-4.

Forewing upperside ground colour brown-dusted yellow, costa bearing thin blackish-brown line at basal fifth; one costal triangular blackish-brown dot in middle, one smaller blackish-brown dot, not always well discernible, behind CuA₂ vein just before middle, slightly lengthening towards inner margin. Forewing underside unmarked, ground colour beige, with wide straw-yellow fasciae along margins. Hindwing upperside unmarked, ground colour light yellow, vaguely darkening towards costa and apex; underside same colour as upperside but costa and apex darker. Fringes concolorous with margins.

Abdomen same as forewings ground colour. A2 sternum apodemes long (plesiomorphic character according to BENDIB and MINET (1999: 243), but see also HOLLOWAY (2001: 281)).

Genitalia. ♂ (Fig. 4). Uncus (uc) falcate, ending in sharp hook (Fig. 4B); tegumen (te) triangular in dorsal view; tuba analis (ta) about as long as uncus, membranous with very thin rod-like scaphium (sc) along almost entire length (Fig. 4B); vinculum (vi) fairly thick, U-shaped (ventro-caudal view), forming a shallow saccus (sa); juxta (ju) cusp-shaped (Fig. 4D); basal saccular process (bp) long and quite slender, vaguely L-shaped with curly distal end, directed outwards, proximally connected to bases of ala valvae; manica penis membranous, transtilla absent (no interconnections between plicae centripetalis).

Ala valvae (av) well sclerotised, pear-shaped when unrolled, with long neck ending in roundish process (tp) densely covered in thorns (Fig. 4A, C);

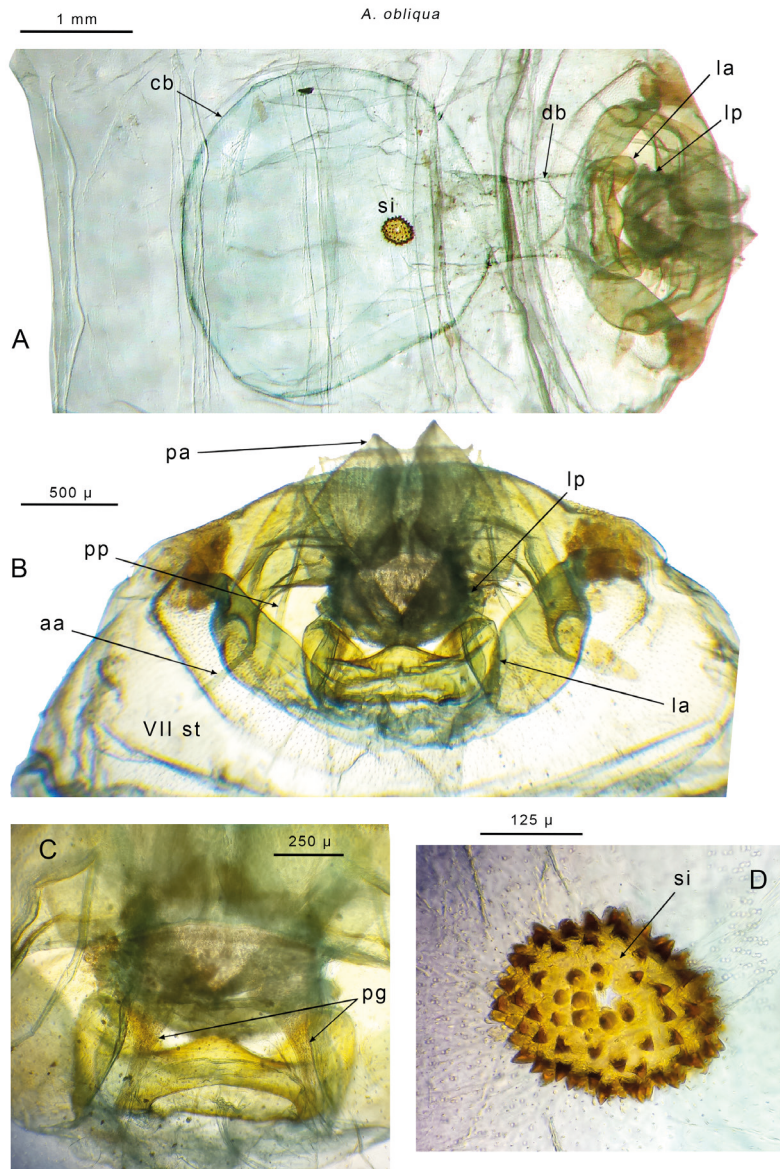


Fig. 5 - *Asbolopsyche obliqua* n. sp., paratype ♀, genitalia.

A – Whole genitalia, ventral view. **B** – Sterigma, ventral view. **C** – Dorsal pheromone glands, dorsal view. **D** – Signum, dorsal view.

aa, anterior apophysis; **cb**, corpus bursae; **db**, ductus bursae; **la**, lamella antevaginalis; **lp**, lamella postvaginalis; **pa**, papillae anales; **pg**, dorsal pheromone glands; **pp**, posterior apophysis; **si**, signum; **VII st**, seventh sternum.

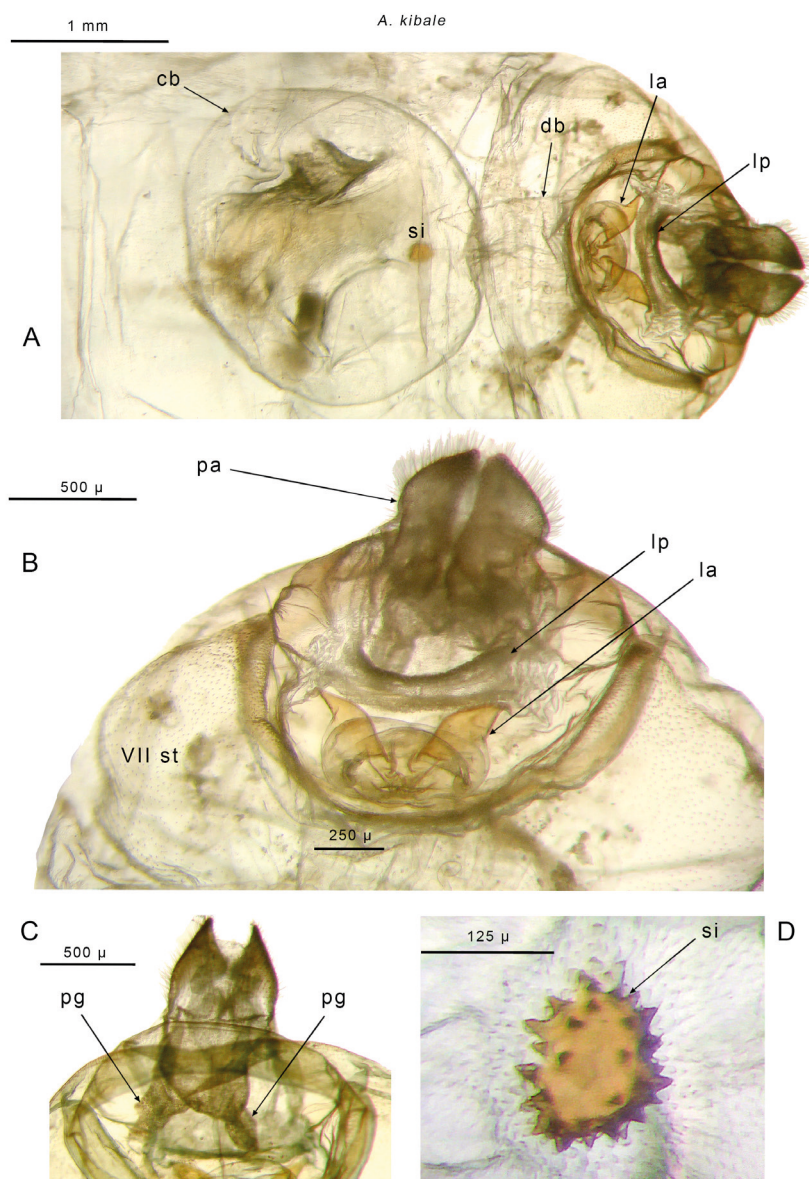


Fig. 6 - *Asbolopsyche kibale* n. sp., paratype ♀, genitalia.
A – Whole genitalia, ventral view. **B** – Sterigma, ventral view. **C** – Dorsal pheromone glands, dorsal view. **D** – Signum, dorsal view.
cb, corpus bursae; **db**, ductus bursae; **la**, lamella antevaginalis; **lp**, lamella postvaginalis; **pa**, papillae anales; **pg**, dorsal pheromone glands; **si**, signum; **VII st**, seventh sternum.

ventral margin with half a dozen thick thorns aligned along proximal half (not clearly visible on right valva in image); dorsal margin with around fifteen bigger well sclerotised spines (right valva) or about five (left valva); margin between bigger spines covered in short thick spines.

Supravalva membranous, as long as or slightly longer than ala valvae and linked to this by its basal third, slightly more slender than base of ala valvae, tapering at distal end; processus basalis plicae (pb) dome-shaped, dorso-mesally directed.

Aedeagus (Fig. 4A) tubular, half as long as ala valvae, with small sclerotization (rs) dorsally at distal end; entrance of ductus ejaculatorius dorsal and coecum penis (cm) very short; vesica almost as long as aedeagus, without cornuti.

♀ (Fig. 6). Seventh urite barely longer than sixth, with caudal margin folded inside to include eighth; lamella antevaginalis (la) well sclerotised, with two well separated pointed cuspids.

Eighth urite less than half as long as seventh and half as wide; lamella postvaginalis (lp) thick and membranous, bar-like, almost as wide as lamella antevaginalis.

Papillae anales (pa) smoothly squarish; anterior apophyses (aa) as thick as and about one third as long as posterior apophyses (pp); posterior apophyses one and half times longer than papillae anales; dorsal pheromone glands (pg; Fig. 6C) unpaired, with one wide caudal opening at intersegmental membrane between A8 and A9, anteriorly deeply bifurcated into two finger-like lobes slightly longer than papillae anales.

Ductus bursae (db) membranous, cylindrical, slightly narrowing at connection with corpus, one third length of corpus bursae; ductus seminalis arising dorsally from caudal end; corpus bursae (cb) membranous, large, spherical, with oval, concave, dorsal signum (si; Fig. 6D), strongly sclerotised, scobinate with tiny spines around it, and smooth bottom.

Etymology. The name refers to the place where the species was found: the forest of Kibale in Uganda. Noun in apposition (ICZN 11.9.1.2).

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