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COLEOPHORA LATICOSTELLA MANN, 1859 A NEW MOTH SPECIES FOR EUROPE FROM EASTERN GREECE (LEPIDOPTERA: COLEOPHORIDAE)

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Abstract: *Coleophora laticostella* Mann, 1858 was recorded for the first time from Greece, and simultaneously from Europe. Until now, the species was known only from the Asian part of Turkey. Photographic documentation of the adult male and the male genitalia is attached.

Key words: Lepidoptera, *Coleophora laticostella*, Greece, Brussa

INTRODUCTION

Coleophora laticostella was described by Mann (1858) based on specimens from Sicily (Partinico) and Turkey (Brussa), while the lectotype does not have a locality designation. Here a problem arises, since according to the current knowledge no specimens have ever been found from the Italian island of Sicily. BALDIZZONE (1981: 7-8) has addressed the issue in detail, examining specimens collected by Mann from Brussa and finding that TOLL (1962) correctly depicted the female genitalia, but for the male he depicted the wrong species, *C. laticostella*, which TOLL (1943: 89) had already described as *Coleophora marianii*. BALDIZZONE et al. (2006: 74) have clarified the confusion regarding the identification and distribution of this species. Specimens with genitalia comparable to the lectotype have so far only been found in Turkey, but not in Sicily. It is therefore very likely that the lectotype comes from "Brussa". The species *Coleophora marianii* Toll, 1943 is currently considered a synonym of *Coleophora fretella* Zeller, 1847 (LEPIFORUM 2026).

THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF *COLEOPHORA LATICOSTELLA* IN GREECE

One male specimen of *Coleophora laticostella* (Fig. 1) was caught by Ivan Richter on April 27, 2022, at a mountainous site near the village of Kirki, located 27 km northwest of Alexandroupoli, in the northeastern region of Greece in the Thrace region. The elevation of the site is approximately 200 m.

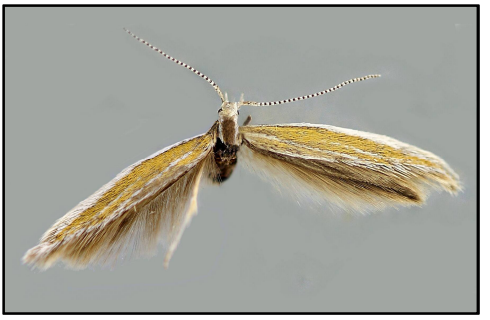

Fig. 1. *Coleophora laticostella*, ♂, Greece, Kirki 27.4.2022 (photo F. Kosorín).

The genitalia were removed from this specimen, dissected, and photographed (Fig. 2A). Subsequently, the aedeagus was separated from the genitalia and the genitalia were documented again (Fig. 2B). The genitalia are stored in a plastic tube filled with glycerin, the tube being placed under a dissected moth, and stored in the author's collection.

The genitalia were first shown by BALDIZZONE (1981).

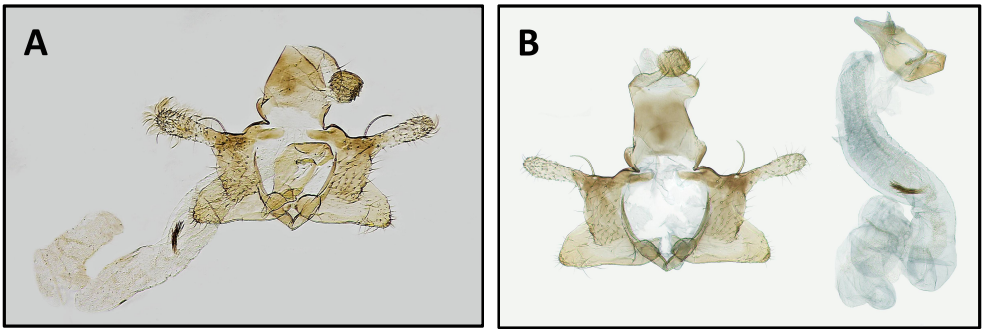

Fig. 2. *Coleophora laticostella*, male genitalia. **A)** genitalia slide FK/5331 (photo F. Kosorín), **B)** genitalia with aedeagus separated (photo Ignác Richter).

DISCUSSION

Due to the confusion that occurred with the description of the species, as well as possible confusion with related species such as *C. fretella* (syn. *C. marianii*), the distribution of *C. laticostella* (Sicily, Bithynia, Palestine and Pontus) is also highly debatable. BALDIZZONE et al. (2006) are convinced that, apart from Turkey (Brussa), there are no other reliably determined specimens (LEPIFORUM 2026). Baldizzone (2026, pers. comm.) states that no other specimens has been seen in the last 45 years since the revision of Toll's material.

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