

## On the subgeneric position of *Orthosia porosa* (Lep., Noctuidae).

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From a study of the male genitalia of the Roumanian species of *Orthosia* Ochsenheimer, 1816 (*Taeniocampa* auct., *Monima* auct.) Căpuse (1958) concluded that the peculiarities shown by *O. gothica* (Linné, 1758) are sufficiently important to justify a separation of this species from the remainder of the genus and a new genus, *Anacta* Căpuse, was erected for it. Some years later, however, the name *Anacta* was sunk by Boursin (1964), without comments, to a mere synonym of *Orthosia*. In the author's opinion the division of a genus at the generic level can be satisfactorily based only upon an investigation in which every species from the entire geographical range of the genus is taken into account. The genus *Orthosia* comprises about 50 species of which only 9 occur in Roumania (Popescu-Gorj 1964). Consequently, the full taxonomic importance of the distinctions of *O. gothica* cannot be evaluated from a study of this fauna only. Furthermore, neither the morphology of the female genitalia nor that of the larva (Beck 1960) corroborates a generic division. On the other hand, it is true that some of the characters mentioned by Căpuse do indicate a somewhat isolated position of *O. gothica* at least among the West-palaeartic *Orthosia*-species. At the present time it may therefore be reasonable to maintain the taxon *Anacta* as a subgenus. Concerning Mr. Boursin's uncommented deletion of the name the author should like to point out that in his opinion making synonyms of other scientists' names is an action which requires some kind of explanation.

Apart from the genital characters, however, Căpuse claimed that also the colour-pattern of *O. gothica* indicates that it should be placed in another genus. In this connection it was suggested

that the East-European and Asiatic species *O. porosa* (Eversmann, 1854) which bears some external resemblance to *O. gothica* (compare figs. 3 and 4) also belongs to *Anacta*; no anatomical evidence was however available. In order to elucidate this problem the present author has dissected the only specimen of *O. porosa* present in the collections of the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen (a ♂ labelled "Oural"). This investigation revealed the interesting fact that the male genital armature in no ways indicates a close relationship between this species and *O. gothica* which would justify its inclusion in the new subgenus.

The feature of the male genitalia of *O. gothica* (fig. 1) considered most important for its separation from the other *Orthosia*-species and which is thus diagnostic of the subgenus *Anacta* is the presence of a pair of conspicuous lateral processes of the anellus which are apically curved and furnished with small teeth. Also the presence of a small dorsal process (a "digitus") distally on the valva is of diagnostic value. Furthermore, the uncus is apically expanded and flattened, its hind margin convex, somewhat produced laterally. Valvae almost rectangular. Ventrals of digitus a small process. Corona absent. Process of harpe dorsally dilated. Process of ampulla rather long, bent upwards. Endophallus distally (when invaginated) with a couple of large dentated sclerites and some isolated cornuti; more interiorly with a compact bundle of small cornuti and an isolated strong cornutus.

The male genitalia of *O. porosa* (fig. 2) are quite different. Neither the processes of the anellus nor the digitus present. Uncus apically pointed. Valvae narrower, tapering, distally bent, distal part simple. Corona present. Harpe without a distinct process. Process of ampulla rather short, downwards bent. Endophallus distally with a dentated sclerite and a large bundle of rather long, curved cornuti.

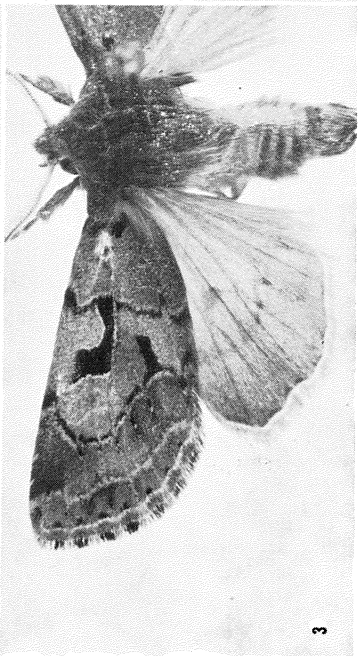
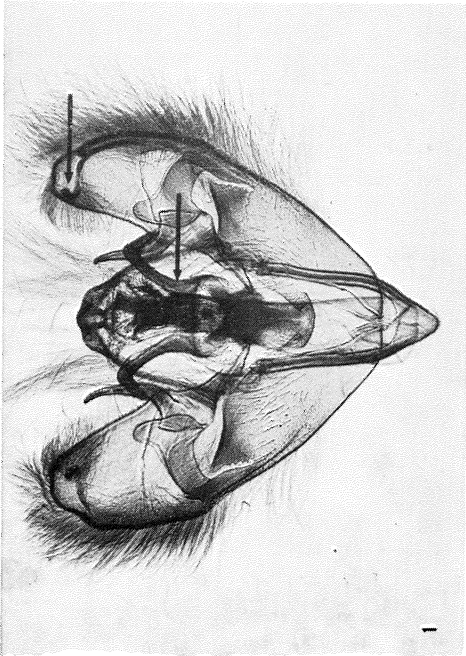
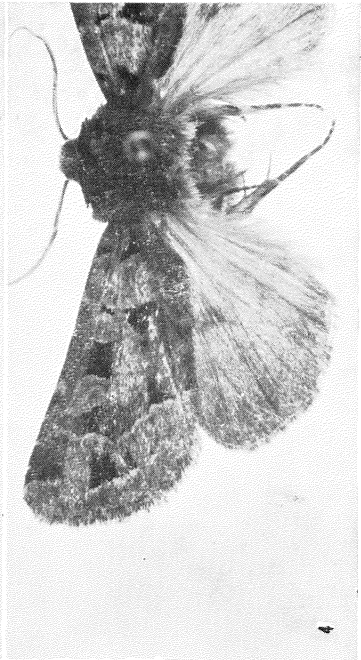
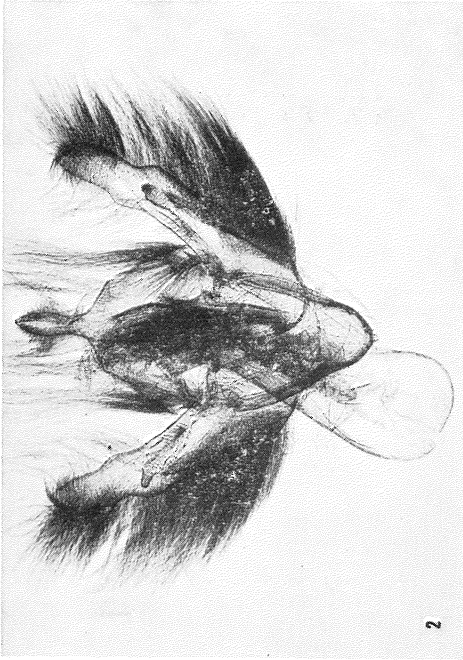
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Fig. 1. *Orthosia (Anacta) gothica*. ♂-genitalia. Arrows indicate "digitus" and process of anellus. Genit. no. 530. N. P. Kristensen. (x 12).

Fig. 2. *Orthosia (O.) porosa*. ♂-genitalia. Genit. no. 523. N. P. Kristensen. (x 12).

Fig. 3. *Orthosia (Anacta) gothica* ♂. Denmark, Kongelunden 20. IV. 1954. Coll. Zool. Mus. Copenhagen. (x 6).

Fig. 4. *Orthosia (O.) porosa* ♂. "Oural". Coll. Zool. Mus. Copenhagen. (x 6).





**Conclusions.** *O. porosa* should be retained in the subgenus *Orthosia* s. str. The colour-pattern of *O. gothica* does not corroborate its separation from the remainder of the genus.

### Summary.

The rank of the taxon *Anacta* Căpuse, 1958 is discussed. It is considered a subgenus of *Orthosia* Ochsenheimer, 1816. The male genitalia of *Orthosia (Anacta) gothica* (Linné, 1758) and *O. (O.) porosa* (Eversmann, 1854) are compared. Contrary to the suggestions of Căpuse the characters of the former, diagnostic of *Anacta*, are not present in the latter. The two species should consequently not be included in the same subgenus.

### Literature cited.

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