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Review of the New World genera of the subfamily Acontiinae (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

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Abstract

The taxonomic status of the 138 species of Acontiinae are reviewed and assigned to seven genera, *Ponometia* Herrich-Schäffer, *Tarache* Hübner, *Acontia* Ochsenheimer, *Eusceptis* Hübner, *Pseudalypia* H. Edwards, *Spragueia* Grote, and *Trogotorna* Hampson. A key to the genera, diagnoses of the genera, species groups of *Tarache*, illustrations of adults and genitalia of representatives of the seven genera, and a check list of the New World species are included.

Keywords

Taxonomy, Acontiinae, New World, *Acontia*, *Eusceptis*, *Ponometia*, *Pseudalypia*, *Spragueia*, *Tarache*, *Trogotorna*

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to propose a new classification for the New World species of the noctuid subfamily Acontiinae.

The subfamily "Acontiinae" has a checkered history. It has been treated as a receptacle for a large number of unrelated small genera of the Noctuidae. The family as treated in the last check list of the moths of North America (Franclemont and Todd 1983) included the tribes Acontiini, Eustrotiini, Bagisarini, Cydosiini, and Eublemmini. These tribes have been disassociated and given subfamily ranking following

Crumb (1956), Poole (1995), Kitching and Rawlins (1998), Fibiger and Lafontaine (2005), Lafontaine and Fibiger (2006), and Lafontaine and Schmidt (in press).

The subfamily Acontiinae as currently classified by Fibiger and Lafontaine (2005) includes four tribes: Acontiini, Armadini, Aediini, and Hypercalymniini. Of the four, only the tribe Acontiini occurs in the New World and is the same group of genera listed as Acontiini in Franclemont and Todd (1983).

The Old World Acontiini was recently revised by Hacker et al. (2008). In this classification the world fauna of the Acontiini is placed in a single genus (*Acontia* Ochsenheimer) and the species arranged in seven subgenera: one restricted to the New World (subg. *Euseptis* Hübner), two Holarctic (*Acontia* and *Emmelia* Hübner) and four Palearctic. One would expect that a tribe with a single genus with more than 300 species would be very conservative structurally, but the situation is the opposite. The "genus" is so structurally diverse that the authors have restricted the diagnosis of the tribe and the genus to the type species, *Acontia lucida* Hufnagel, stating that the other members of the genus share "the same autapomorphic characters as those of the type-species, though sometimes in different states, and some of which might have been lost" (Hacker et al. 2008: 10). A number of the more striking apomorphic characters, such as the hair tufts on the scaphium and the characters of the tympanic area, apply to the subfamily. The larval characters apply to the tribe, and most of the other characters listed (bird-dropping appearance, shape of the valves and vesica, asymmetry of the valves, sacculi, and claspers) are so varied throughout the "genus" that they are of little use in diagnosing any of the "subgenera" except a few small subgenera segregated out because of a particularly unusual character state, in one case the forewing maculation. The derived character states that support the monophyly of the subfamily Acontiinae, and those that characterize the tribe Acontiini, are combined and applied to a single genus by Hacker et al. (2008) as a way of dealing with the huge amount of structural diversity among the several hundred species in the tribe Acontiini. The result is that the genus *Acontia* (s.l.) is very well defined, being equivalent to the tribe and largely to the subfamily. Molecular data and a phylogenetic analysis of genital characters may be useful in arranging the Old World fauna into smaller better defined monophyletic genera.

The classification that we present here is the result of the fusion of two separate research efforts. An online draft of the Acontiinae of North America by the junior author (R.W. Poole) intended as the basis for an online identification manual of the subfamily arranged the 100 or so species into six genera, mainly on the basis of genital structure. The senior author (J.D. Lafontaine), working on the classification mainly with DNA data from a molecular gene sequence of 658 base-pairs of the cytochrome c oxidase 1 (COI) mitochondrial gene, commonly called "barcodes," arrived at the same six lineages that we treat as genera. The New World fauna of the Acontiinae was arranged in 14 genera by Poole (1989). We arrange the fauna in seven genera with the addition of the Neotropical genus *Trogotorna* Hampson to the six North American genera. A list of New World Acontiinae is given in the Appendix. Our classification based on morphology is similar in most respects to the phenetic clustering-produced neighbor-joining tree analysis of the 658 base-pair sequences of the COI barcodes of

the available 68 species of New World Acontiinae (Fig. 49). Although the COI DNA sequence analysis shows many relationships supported by genital characters, the placement of the genera *Spragueia* and *Trogotorna* are not consistent with their placement according to genital characters

Genital terminology. Terms for genital structures and wing markings follow Lafontaine (2004).

Key to genera of North American Acontiinae (male genitalia)

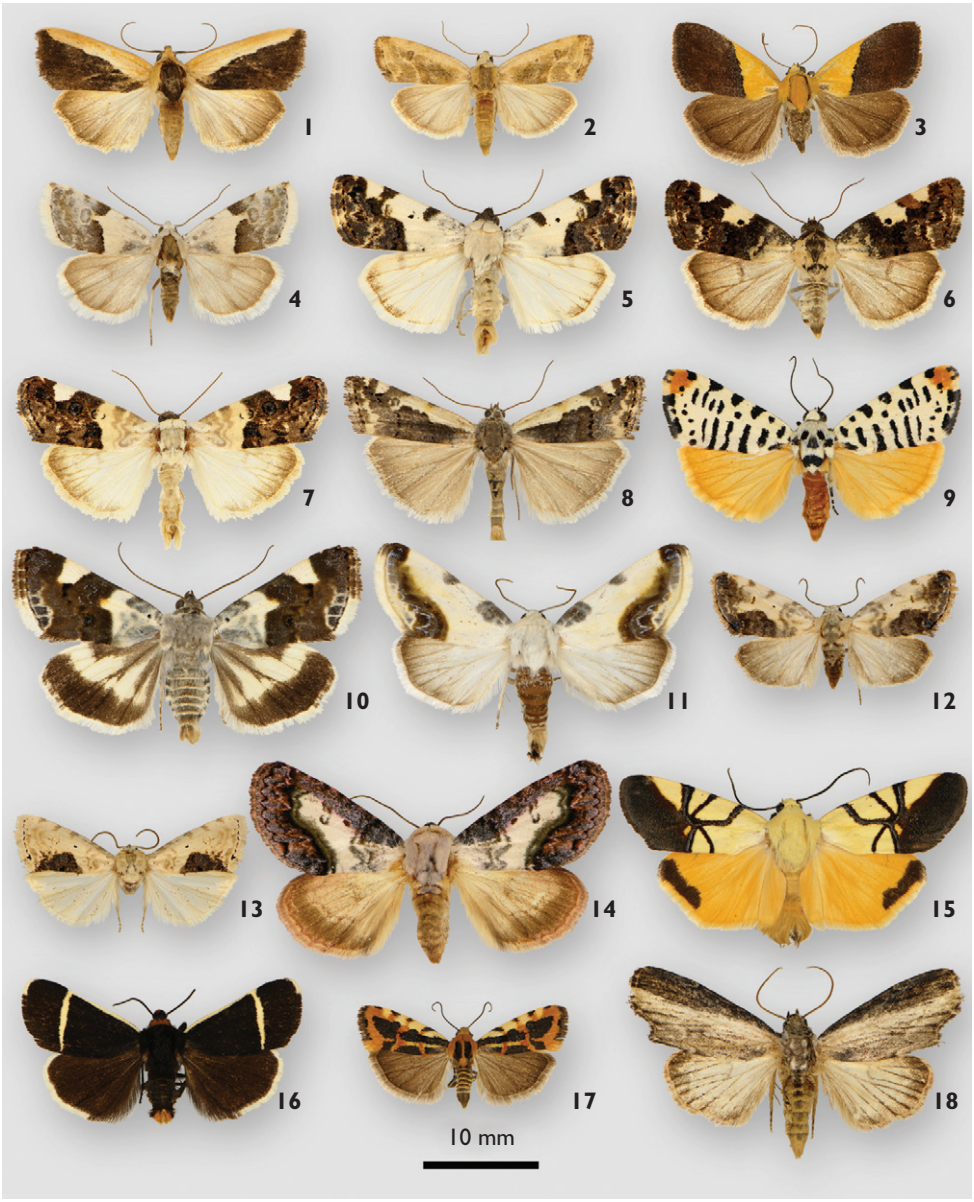
1. Ventral surface of uncus with rows of spine-like setae; southern Texas and Neotropics ..... ***Eusceptis***
– Ventral surface of uncus smooth or with a few hair-like setae **2**
2. Valves with prominent, rounded or elongated setose ampulla on dorsal margin of clasper..... **3**
– Valves without ampulla; some species with spiny posterior extension of sacculus **5**
3. Apical part of the vesica membranous, but with elongated tapered diverticulum covered with spicules forming a false cornutus ..... ***Acontia***
– Apical part of vesica with several pouch-like diverticula covered with dense patches of spines **4**
4. Valves bilaterally symmetrical except for longer ampulla on right valve .... ***Pseudalypia***
– Valves prominently asymmetrical ..... ***Spragueia***
5. Aedeagus short, about 3 × as long as wide; valve tapered apically; Neotropics .. .. ***Trogotorna***
– Aedeagus at least 5 × as long as wide; valve wider toward apex; widespread **6**
6. Vesica with one or two medial diverticula with longitudinally ridged cornutus at apex of each diverticulum; apical part of vesica with comb-like row of short cornuti; valves bilaterally symmetrical in most species ..... ***Ponometia***
– Vesica with dense field of spines toward apex or at end of subapical diverticulum; valves bilaterally asymmetrical in most species ..... ***Tarache***

Synoptic descriptions of the New World genera

Ponometia Herrich-Schäffer, 1868

Figs 1–4, 19–22, 39

Ponometia is a large genus of New World Acontiinae with 47 described species. We list it first because of the bilaterally symmetrical male genitalia, a character likely to be primitive and apparently absent in Old World Acontiinae (Hacker et al. 2008). Unlike *Tarache* and *Acontia*, only a few species have a moth that resembles a bird dropping.



Figures 1–18. Acontiinae adults [former generic name in brackets]. **1** *Ponometia* [*Ponometia*] *exigua* **2** *Ponometia* [*Fruva*] *fasciatella* **3** *Ponometia* [*Tarachidia*] *semiflava* **4** *Ponometia* [*Conochares*] *altera* **5** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *aprica*, m **6** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *aprica*, f **7** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *areli* **8** *Tarache* [*Therasea*] *augustipennis* **9** *Tarache* [*Hemispragueia*] *idella* **10** *Acontia* [*Acontia*] *lucida* **11** *Acontia* [*Acontia*] *cretata* **12** *Acontia* [*Stylorache*] *albida* **13** *Acontia* [*Chelichares*] *nubifera* **14** *Acontia* [*Hoplotarache*] *ruffinellii* **15** *Eusceptis* [*Eusceptis*] *flavifrimbriata* **16** *Pseudalypia* [*Pseudalypia*] *crotchii* **17** *Spragueia* [*Spragueia*] *leo* **18** *Trogotorna* [*Trogotorna*] *persecta*.

The genus is most easily characterized by the relatively small size of the moth (forewing length: 6–16 mm, but most species 8–12 mm), and the male and female genitalia. **Male genitalia** (Figs 19–22). The valves are bilaterally symmetrical with only a few species showing slight differences between the valves (e.g., *P. albitermen*, *P. binocula*, *P. tortricina*). The clasper is a long spine-like process on the ventral margin of the valve that turns upward, often abruptly so, to project onto the inner surface of the valve. The diagnostic feature of *Ponometia* is the vesica; there are one or two long diverticula, each with a longitudinally-ridged apical cornutus, and there is a comb-like row of small cornuti on the apical part of the vesica. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 39). The inner surface of the corpus bursae is covered posteriorly, sometimes entirely, with large patches of long spines 5–10 × as long as wide.

Food plants. Food plants are recorded for *Ponometia candefacta* (*Ambrosia* spp.), *Ponometia erastrioides* (*Ambrosia* spp.), *Ponometia acutus* (*Ambrosia* sp.), *Ponometia altera* (*Haplopappus* Cass. and *Ericameria* Nuttall), and *Ponometia libedis* (*Iva ambrosiaefolia* A. Gray), all in the Asteraceae. In addition *Ponometia bicolorata* has been reared from *Simsia foetida* (Cav.) S. F. Blake in the Asteraceae and *Heliotropium indicum* L. in the Boraginaceae.

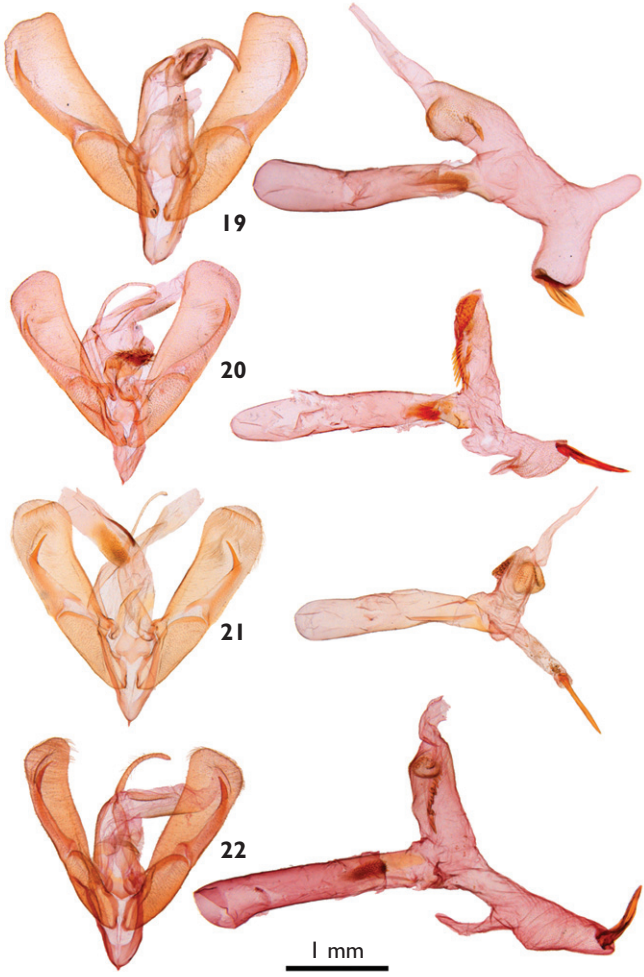
Tarache Hübner, [1823]

Figs 5–9, 23–30, 40–43

The genus *Tarache* contains 46 species, the majority of the species previously assigned to *Acontia* in the New World. The genus is heterogeneous in morphology, but can be arranged in three relatively well-defined and more homogeneous species-groups, and two of these can be divided further into subgroups. It may be desirable at some point in the future to subdivide the genus, but overlap in the presence of diagnostic character states among the species groups has encouraged us to adopt a larger definition of the genus. Included in *Tarache* are species previously placed in *Therasea* and *Hemispragueia*. **Male genitalia** (Figs 23–30). Valves usually bilaterally asymmetrical, often markedly so; vesica with a dense rasp-like patch or patches of short spines at or near apex of vesica or on a diverticulum. **Female genitalia** (Figs 40–43). Inner surface of corpus with patches of spines 2–4 × as long as wide; appendix bursae sclerotized, most frequently forming a posterior lobe of corpus bursae but wrapping around and partially or completely fused to right side of corpus bursae in *T. aprica* group and in *T. augustipennis* and *T. cora*, so that ductus seminalis arises at or near anterior end of corpus bursae.

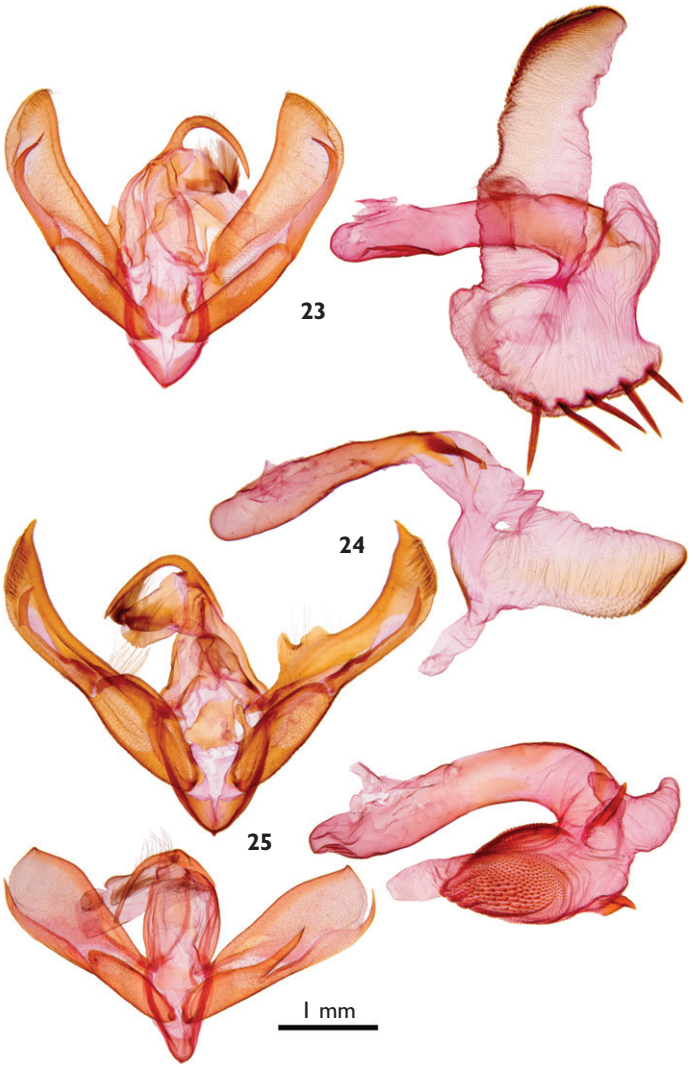
Food plants. The food plants are recorded for *T. aprica* (*Althaea rosea* Cav.), *T. delecta* (*Hibiscus moschuetos* L.), *T. tetragona* (*Malvaviscus arboreus* Cav. and *Herssantia crispa* (L.) Brizicky) all in the family Malvaceae.

***Tarache aprica* species-group.** This species-group contains the type species of *Tarache* (*T. aprica*) and 22 other species (*Tarache abdominalis*, *T. apela*, *T. ardoris*, *T. assimilis*, *T. dacia*, *T. cratina*, *T. delecta*, *T. destricta*, *T. flavipennis*, *T. isolata*, *T. knowltoni*, *T. lagunae*, *T. lactipennis, T. morides*, *T. parana T. phrygionis*, *T. quadriplaga*, *T.*



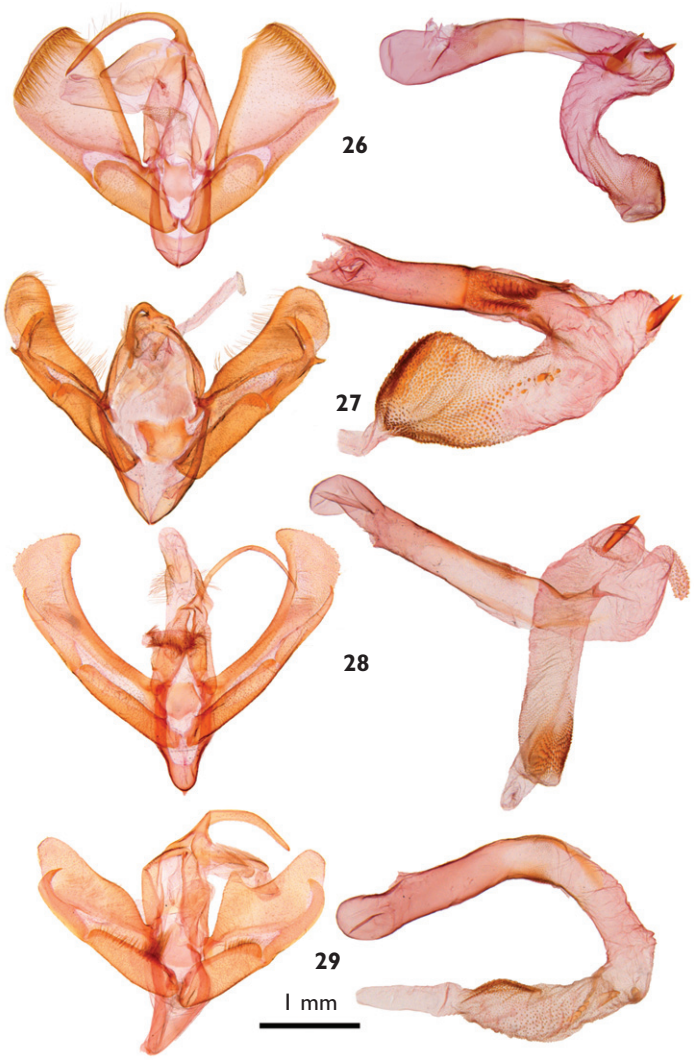
Figures 19–22. Male genitalia of *Ponometia* [former generic name in brackets]. **19** *Ponometia* [*Ponometia*] *megocula* **20** *Ponometia* [*Fruva*] *fasciatella* **21** *Ponometia* [*Tarachidia*] *venustula* **22** *Ponometia* [*Conochares*] *altera*.

rufescens, *T. sutor*, *T. tenuicola*, *T. terminimaculata* and *T. tetragona*). The vesica of the aedeagus is the most distinctive feature of the *T. aprica* species-group; it tends to be globular with small subbasal diverticula and a massive subapical diverticulum, almost as long as the aedeagus, with its apex covered by a dense patch of spines. Species of the *T. aprica* subgroup have a distinctive subbasal lobe on the vesica armed with a row of 2–8 (depending on the species) large spike-like cornuti (Fig. 23). This row of cornuti is absent in the other three subgroups: *T. terminimaculata* (with *T. dacia*, *T. cratina*, *T. phrygionis*, and *T. isolata*), *T. tetragona* (with *T. quadriplaga*), and *T. ardoris* (with *T. morides*, *T. parana*, and *T. rufescens*). A diagnostic feature of species in the *T. aprica*, *T.*



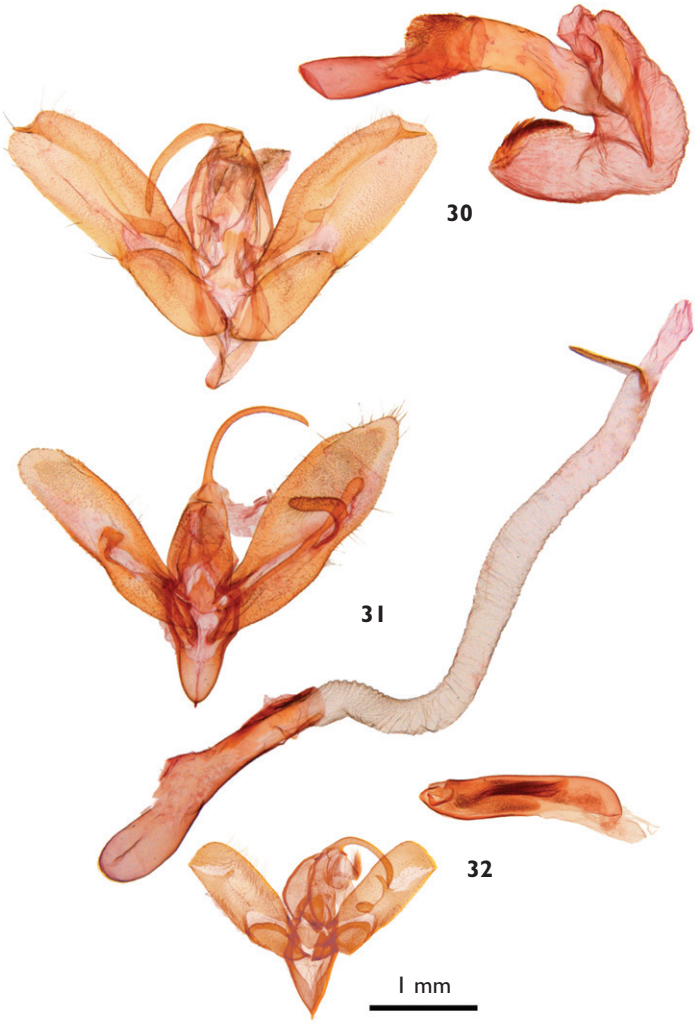
Figures 23–25. Male genitalia of *Tarache* [former generic name in brackets]. **23** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *aprica* **24** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *tetragona* **25** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *areli*.

terminimaculata, and *T. tetragona* subgroups, is the presence of a clavus at the base of the dorsal margin of the sacculus on the right valve, but absent on the left one (Figs 23, 24). The South American *Tarache ardoris* subgroup lacks the clavus on the right valve. In the female, the appendix bursae is very long and is fused to the right wall of the corpus bursae and extends 0.5–0.8 of the distance to the anterior end of the corpus bursae (Fig. 40). A similar form of bursa copulatrix is in *T. augustipennis* (Fig. 41) and *T. cora*, but in the former the fusion is less complete and in the latter there is no distinction between the corpus bursae and appendix bursae, and the ductus seminalis is at the anterior end of the bursa.



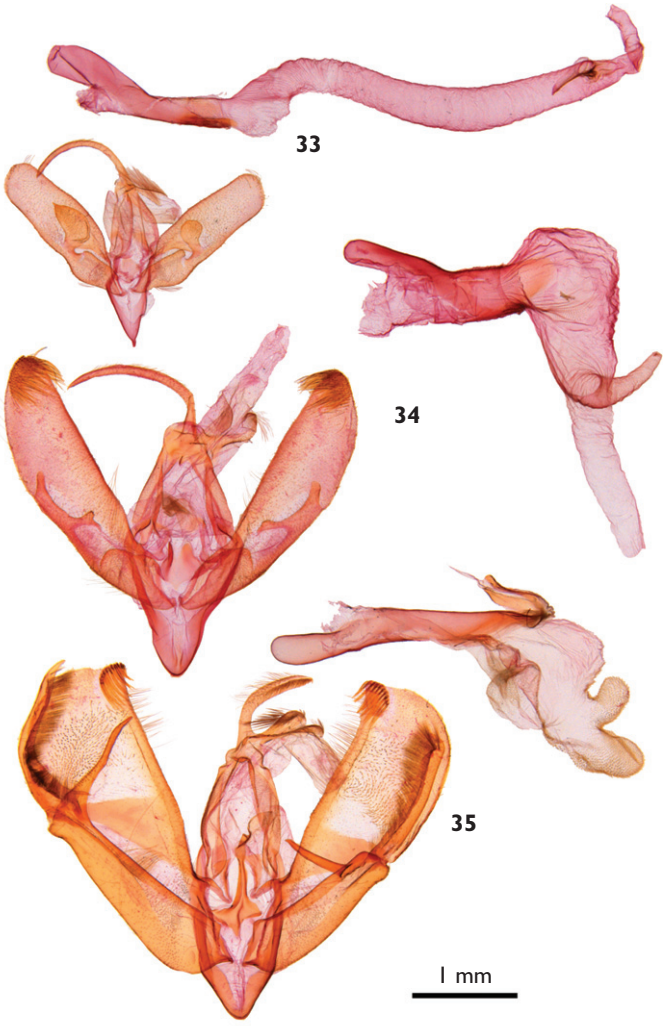
Figures 26–29. Male genitalia of *Tarache* [former generic name in brackets]. **26** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *expolita* **27** *Tarache* [*Hemispragueia*] *idella* **28** *Tarache* [*Therasea*] *augustipennis* **29** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *lucasi*.

***Tarache bilimeki* species-group.** This species-group contains 21 species found in North and Central America. Like the species of the *T. aprica* species-group, the moths and male valve structure varies greatly, and the moth of the majority of the species resembles a bird-dropping when at rest. The species associated with the *T. bilimeki* species-group are best characterized by the form of the vesica (Figs 25–28). The apical part of the vesica has two, sometimes partially merged, fields of dense spines that form a rasp-like area; there are several sub-basal diverticula, some of which have peculiar cornuti that arise obliquely, sometimes to the degree that they appear to be on their side. In the female genitalia (Fig. 41) the posterior part of the ductus bursae forms a



Figures 30–32. Male genitalia of *Acontia* [former generic name in brackets]. **30** *Acontia* [*Acontia*] *lucida* **31** *Acontia* [*Acontia*] *cretata* **32** *Acontia* [*Stylorache*] *albida*.

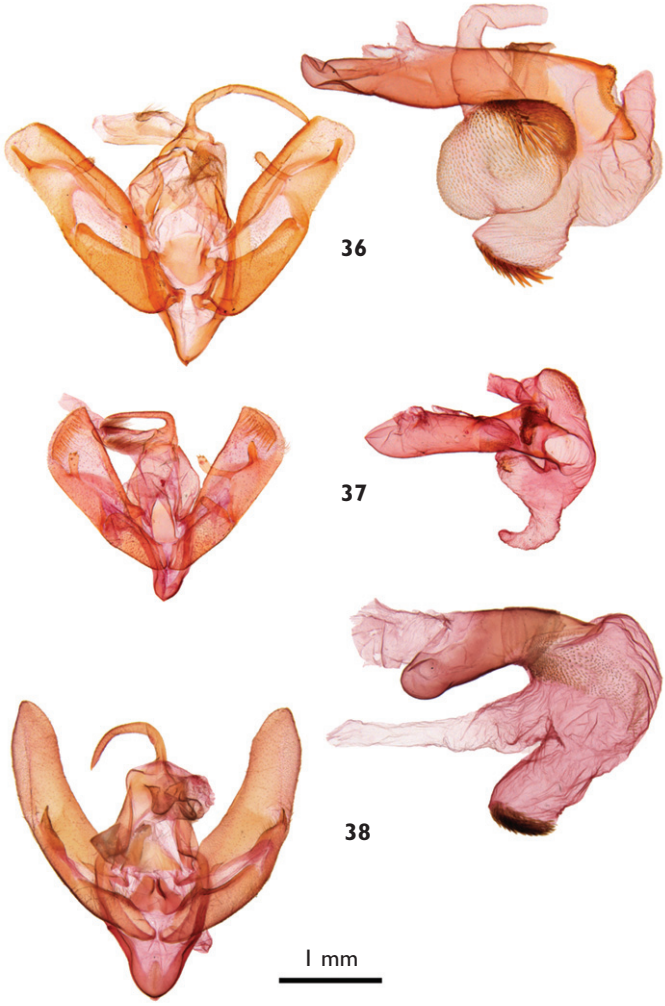
sclerotized, pouch-like ostium bursae, and the appendix bursae is sclerotized, mostly posteriorly, but sometimes partially or completely fused with the right side of the corpus bursae, as in the *T. aprica* species-group. Species in the *T. bilimeki* species-group can be arranged in four subgroups. **1) *Tarache areli* subgroup** (with *T. albifusa*, *T. areletta*, *T. areloides*, *T. geminocula*, and *T. toddi*) characterized by a forewing divided into a mainly pale basal half and a mainly dark outer half, except for a contrasting white preapical patch and a contrasting reniform spot, usually with some blue scaling (Fig. 7). The group was recently revised by Ferris and Lafontaine (2009). **2) *Tarache expolita* subgroup** (with *T. arida*, *T. bella*, *T. cora*, *T. phaenna*) with dark and light shading forming



Figures 33–35. Male genitalia of *Acontia* [former generic name in brackets]. **33** *Acontia* [*Chelichares*] *nubifera* **34** *Acontia* [*Hoplotarache*] *ruffinellii* **35** *Eusceptis* [*Eusceptis*] *flavifrimbriata*.

a patchwork parttern (*T. arida*, *T. bella*), or a dark streak through the middle and lower part of the wing that curves up to the forewing apex (*T. cora*, *T. expolita*) or almost entirely dark (*T. phaenna*). **3) *Tarache bilimeki* subgroup** (with *T. acerba*, *T. augustipennis*, *T. axendra*, *T. lanceolata*, *T. major*, *T. mizteca*, and *T. sedata*) characterized by elongated forewings with the costal half mainly pale and the posterior half mainly dark (Fig. 8). **4) *Tarache idella* subgroup** that includes a single species with a white forewing with narrow black transverse bands and a clear yellow-orange hindwing (Fig. 9).

***Tarache lucasi* species-group.** This species group includes only two species (*T. lucasi* and *T. vittamargo*). The males resemble some species in the *T. bilimeki* subgroup and females are like some in the *T. aprica* subgroup. The male genitalia (Fig. 29), how-



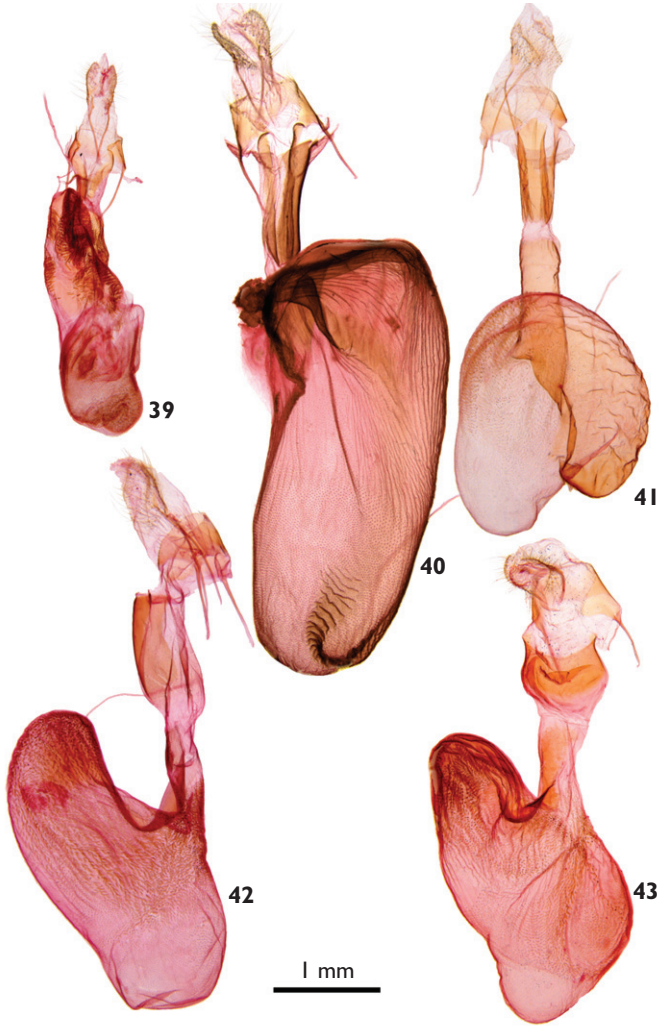
Figures 36–38. Male genitalia of Acontiinae. **36** *Pseudalypia crotchii* **37** *Spragueia leo* **38** *Trogotorna persecta*.

ever, are atypical for either group. The male valves are short and stumpy with strong claspers on both the right and left valves and spine-like setae along the dorsal margins of the sacculi; the aedeagus and vesica are elongate and narrow.

Acontia Ochsenheimer, 1816

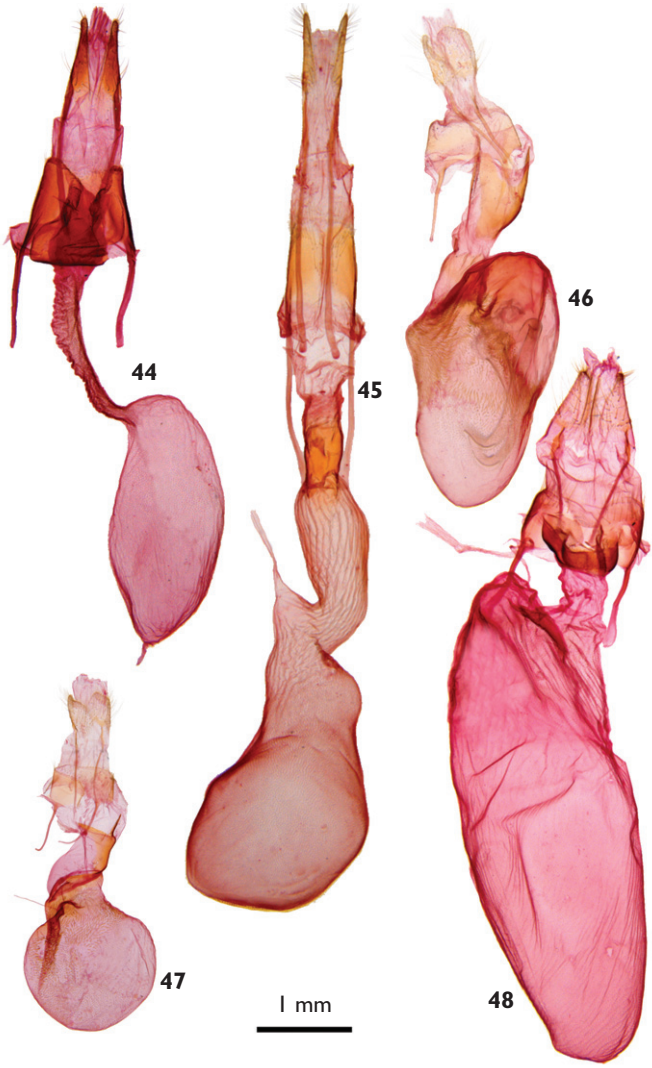
Figs 10–14, 30–34, 44

Acontia is the only New World genus also represented in Old World as well. There are five described species in the genus in North America and six in Central and South America. The



Figures 39–43. Female genitalia of Acontiinae [former generic name in brackets]. **39** *Ponometia* [*Tarachidia*] *nannodes* **40** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *aprica* **41** *Tarache* [*Therasea*] *augustipennis* **42** *Tarache* [*Acontia*] *lucasi* **43** *Tarache* [*Hemispragueia*] *idella*.

moths differ greatly in appearance and size; however most species tend to be some combination of white and gray, the white tending to be shiny. The forewing tends to be broad, often with a rounded apex. **Male genitalia** (Figs 30–34). All of the species have a well-developed, setose ampulla on the clasper and the clasper is usually weakly sclerotized except for a spine-like apex. In many species the costal part of the valve is more heavily sclerotized than the ventral part. The vesica in the New World species is elongated and without diverticula or spiny areas, except for a long, tapered, horn-like subapical diverticulum that is covered with minute denticles so that it appears to function as an enlarged cornutus; *Acontia lucida*, the type-species from western Eurasia, has a spinulose subbasal diverticulum with a spiny



Figures 44–48. Female genitalia of Acontiinae. **44** *Acontia cretata* **45** *Eusceptis lelae* **46** *Pseudalypia crotchii* **47** *Spragueia leo* **48** *Trogotorna persecta*.

apex, as well as the false cornutus. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 44). These consist of an elongate, sclerotized, ostium bursae, a tubular, membranous ductus bursae, and an oval membranous corpus bursae with the ductus seminalis at the anterior end. In Old World *Acontia* there are separate sclerotized plates in the ostium and ductus bursae and the ductus seminalis is at the end of a sclerotized appendix bursae, which is on the posterior left side of the corpus bursae.

Food plants. The food plants are recorded in the New World only for an undescribed species related to *A. cretata* that occurs in Texas and northeastern Mexico; it has been reared from *Abutilon pedunculare* Kunth (Malvaceae). In the Old World, *Acontia lucida* feeds primarily, but not exclusively, on species of Malvaceae.

***Eusceptis* Hübner, [1823]**
Figs 15, 35, 45

This genus includes 11 species, mainly of the Neotropical Region, but one species extends northward to Texas. The relatively large moths (forewing length 9–17 mm) with their broad boldly-patterned forewings, are more reminiscent of some species of *Eulepidotis* Hübner than an acontiine. One species (*E. obscura*) is drably colored with more rounded wings, but the genitalia are typical for *Eusceptis*. **Male genitalia** (Fig. 35). The rows of stiff setae on the ventral surface of the uncus are diagnostic for the genus. The valves are broad and apically rounded, widest near the apex; they are highly asymmetrical in almost all species (less so in *E. irretita*) and in most the right valve is more structurally complex than the left one. In all species except two the corona is concentrated in a small cluster at the dorsal-apical corner of the valve at the apex of a rod-like thickening of the costal margin of the valve. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 45). These are similar to those of *Acontia*. The ostial area is sclerotized but the ductus bursae and corpus bursae are elongated and membranous; the appendix bursae is on a short membranous lobe on the left posterior margin of the corpus bursae. The apophyses and abdominal segment eight are very long and suggest a different mode of oviposition than other acontiines.

Food plant. *Malvaviscus arboreus* Cav. (Malvaceae); reared by D. Janzen and W. Hallwachs in Costa Rica.

***Pseudalypia* H. Edwards, 1874**
Figs 16, 36, 46

This only species known in the genus *Pseudalypia* is *P. crotchii* and is so different from other acontiines that it was described in the Agaristinae. It was first recognized as an acontiine by Crumb (1956) from the larval characters. The moth is unmistakable (Fig. 16) and is reminiscent of an arctiine because of the contrasting orange prothoracic collar. **Male genitalia** (Fig. 36). These are most similar to those of *Spragueia*, but the valves are almost bilaterally symmetrical, except for the larger ampulla on the right valve. The vesica has two large subapical diverticula covered with spines. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 46). These are similar to those of *Tarache* and have a large sclerotized appendix bursae that extends anteriorly part way down the right side of the corpus bursae.

Food plants. *Malvastrum exile* A. Gray and *M. parviflora* Phil. (Malvaceae).

***Spragueia* Grote, 1875**
Figs 17, 37, 47

The genus *Spragueia* contains 21 species of small, colorful moths found from southern Canada to the American tropics. The genus has traditionally been associated with the group of genera now amalgamated into *Ponometia*, probably because of small size

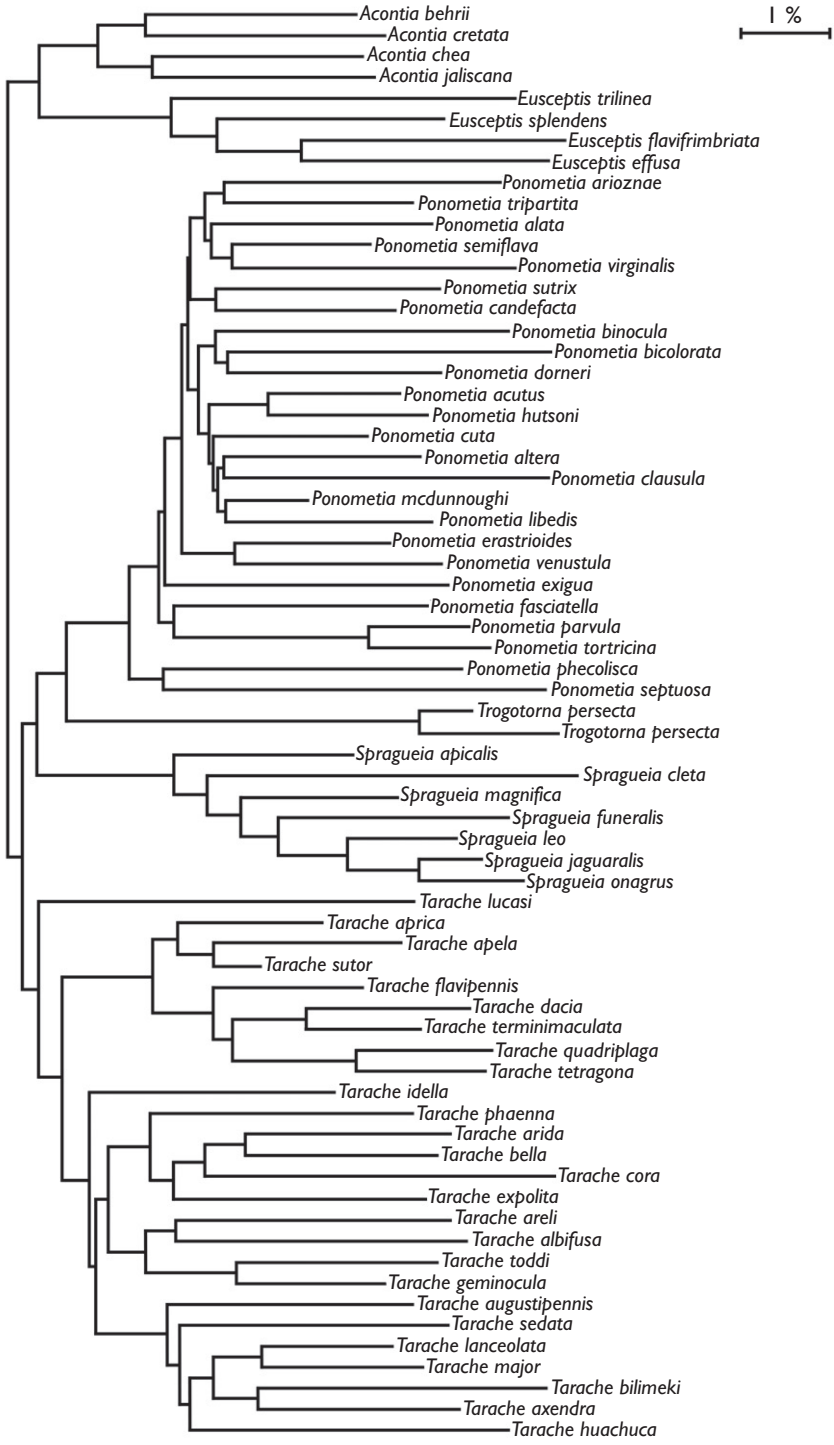


Figure 49. COI neighbor-joining tree of available taxa of New World Acontiinae.

and bold forewing pattern, compared with the bird-dropping look of most species of *Tarache* and *Acontia*. The male genitalia, however, are asymmetrical, and the ampulla well developed, as in *Acontia*, *Pseudalypia*, and *Eusceptis*, so we associate *Spragueia* with these genera. **Male genitalia** (Fig. 37). The clasper of each valve is a broad plate arising from the ventral margin of the valve with a well developed ampulla on each side with the setae enlarged, so the ampulla resembles a mace. The right clasper ends in a heavily sclerotized spine-like process that is absent on the left valve. The vesica has four lobes covered with spicules. A strong corona is usually present. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 47). The ostium is deeply invaginated and heavily sclerotized with the sclerotization commonly extended into the corpus bursae. The corpus bursae is usually globular with its anterior half weakly sclerotized.

Food plants. Species have been reared from plant species in the families Malvaceae, Sterculiaceae, Asteraceae, Convolvulaceae, and Poaceae.

Trogotorna Hampson, 1910

Figs 18, 38, 48

This genus has only recently been confirmed as an acontiine though the research of J. B. Sullivan. It currently contains only the type species, *Trogotorna persecta*, but several undescribed species are under study (J. B. Sullivan, pers. comm.). The moth (Fig. 18) does not at all look like it would belong to the Acontiinae, but the scaphium has the characteristic pair of setose patches, the enlarged alula over the tympanum, a vestigial tympanal hood, and asymmetrical male sacculi and claspers. Also, the CO1 barcode consistently places *Trogotorna* among the acontiine genera. **Male genitalia** (Fig. 38). These would hardly be recognizable as belonging to the Acontiinae were it not for the characteristic setose pouch on each side of the scaphium. The valve tapers apically, unlike most acontiines, and the clasper is short leaf-shaped. There is no corona, ampulla, or saccular extension. The valves are slightly asymmetrical in that the sacculus and clasper on the left valve are smaller than those on the right valve. The aedeagus is unusually short and wide for an acontiine. The vesica is short and bulbous, except for a large subapical diverticulum with a dense patch of spines at the apex. **Female genitalia** (Fig. 48). The apophyses, abdominal segment eight, and the ostium and ductus bursae are very short, whereas the corpus bursae is very large, 10 × as long as the ductus bursae.

Food plants. Unknown.

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Appendix: Checklist of the New World species of the subfamily Acontiinae

* Neotropical species not known from the United States or Canada
** Old World generic synonymy omitted

Ponometia Herrich-Schäffer, 1868 [Type species: *Ponometia ochricosta* Herrich-Schäffer; = *P. exigua* (Fabricius)]
= *Fruva* Grote, 1877**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Spragueia fasciatella* Grote]
= *Heliodora* Neumoegen, 1891 [Type species: *Acontia costalis* Walker; = *P. exigua* (Fabricius)]
= *Graeperia* Grote, 1895 [Type species: *Acontia costalis* Walker; = *P. exigua* (Fabricius)]
= *Tarachidia* Hampson, 1898**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Tarachidia flavibasis* Hampson]
= *Tornacontia* Smith, 1900 [Type species: *Tarache sutrix* Grote]
= *Conochares* Smith, 1905**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Conochares acutus* Smith]
= *Neptunia* Barnes & McDunnough, 1911**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Azena pulchra* Barnes & McDunnough]
= *Uniptena* Nye, 1975**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Azena pulchra* Barnes & McDunnough]
Ponometia albitermen (Barnes & McDunnough, 1916) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia bicolorata (Barnes & McDunnough, 1912) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia flavibasis (Hampson, 1898) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Tarachidia holophaea Hampson, 1898
Ponometia semiflava (Guenée, 1852) (*Xanthoptera*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia septuosa (A. Blanchard & Knudson, 1986) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia carmelita (Dyar, 1914) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia clausula (Grote, 1883) (*Xanthoptera*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia venustula (Walker, 1865) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Acontia discoidalis Walker 1866
Thalpochares fortunata Grote, 1882
Thalpochares perita Grote, 1882
Orobena subcitrinalis Hulst 1886
Ponometia virginalis (Grote, 1881) (*Tarache binocula* var.), **comb. n.**
Acontia tenuescens Smith, 1902
Ponometia binocula (Grote, 1875) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia candefacta (Hübner, 1831) (*Tarache*), **comb. n.**
Micra haworthana Westwood, 1851
Acontia debilis Walker, [1858]
Acontia neomexicana Smith, 1900
Ponometia dorneri (Barnes & McDunnough, 1913) (*Tarache*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia huita (Smith, 1903) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**

Ponometia heonyx (Dyar, 1913) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia cuta (Smith, 1905) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia erastrioides (Guenée, 1852) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia libedis (Smith, 1900) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia nannodes (Hampson, 1910) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia phecolisca (Druce, 1889) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia alata (Smith, 1905) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia albimargo (Barnes & McDunnough, 1916) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia parvula (Walker, 1865) (*Xanthodes*), **comb. n.**
    Fruva georgica Grote, 1881
Ponometia tortricina (Zeller, 1872) (*Agrophila*), **comb. n.**
    Fruva obsoleta Grote, 1877
    Fruva deleta H. Edwards1884
    Fruva modesta H. Edwards, 1884
Ponometia fumata Smith, 1905 (*Spragueia*), **comb. n.**, **stat. rev.**
    [treated as valid species because of differences in genitalia and sympatry with *P. tortricina*]
Ponometia nigra (Mustelin, 2006) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia fasciatella (Grote, 1875) (*Spragueia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia hutsoni (Smith, 1906) (*Thalpochares*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia pulchra (Barnes & McDunnough, 1910) (*Azenia*), **comb. n.**
Ponometia acutus (Smith, 1905) (*Conochares*), comb. n.
    Thalpochares catalina Smith, 1906
Ponometia altera (Smith, 1903) (*Tornacontia*), **comb. n.**
    Graeperia concharodes Hampson 1910
Ponometia elegantula (Harvey, 1876) (*Thalpochares*), **comb. n.**
    Tarache semiopaca Grote, 1878
    Conochares arizonae (H. Edwards, 1878), **syn. n.**
    Thalpochares arizonae H. Edwards, 1878, **syn. n.**
    Conochares interruptus Smith, 1905, **syn. n.**
    Orobena seminivealis Hulst, 1886, **syn. n.**
    Conocharis [sic] *rectangula* McDunnough 1943, **syn. n**.
Ponometia exigua (Fabricius, 1793) (*Bombyx*)
    Nonagria indubitans Walker 1857
    Acontia costalis Walker [1858]
    Acontia dimidiata Walker 1865
    Ponometia ochricosta Herrich-Schäffer, 1868
    Monodes citrina Druce, 1889
    Heliodora magnifica Neumoegen, 1891
Ponometia macdunnoughi (Barnes & Benjamin, 1923) (*Graeperia*)
Ponometia megocula (Smith, 1900) (*Tornacontia*)
Ponometia tripartita (Smith, 1903) (*Tornacontia*)
Ponometia sutrix (Grote, 1880) (*Tarache*)

Ponometia albisecta (Hampson, 1910) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia bruchi (Breyer, 1931) (*Eugraphia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia corrientes (Hampson, 1910) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia margarita (Schaus, 1904) (*Spragueia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia marginata (Köhler, 1979) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia mixta (Möschler, 1890) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia morsa (Köhler, 1979) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia nigrans (Köhler, 1979) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia semibrunnea (Druce, 1909) (*Tarachidia*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia viridans (Schaus, 1904) (*Tarache*), **comb. n.***
Ponometia vinculis (Dyar 1914) (*Fruva*), **comb. n.***
Tarache Hübner, [1823] [Type species: *Noctua aprica* Hübner]
= *Trichotarache* Grote, 1875 [Type species: *Trichotarache assimilis* Grote]
= *Therasea* Grote, 1875**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Tarache augustipennis* Grote]
= *Conacontia* Smith, 1900**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Conacontia flavicosta* Smith]
= *Hemispragueia* Barnes & Benjamin, 1923**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Cerathosea idella* Barnes]
Tarache apela (Druce, 1889) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Acontia philomela Druce, 1889
Tarache destricta Draudt, 1936, **comb. rev.***
Tarache tenuicola Morrison, 1874, **comb. rev.**
Acontia nuicola Smith, 1900
Acontia meskei Smith, 1900
Tarache mescei Hampson, 1910
Graeperia carcharodonta Hampson, 1910
Tarache sutor (Hampson, 1910) (*Graeperia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache aprica (Hübner, [1808]), (*Noctua*), **comb. rev.**
Noctua alboater Haworth, 1809
Acontia unocula Freyer, 1849
Acontia biplaga Guenée, 1852
Acontia redita Felder & Rogenhofer, 1874
Tarache assimilis (Grote, 1875) (*Trichotarache*), **comb. n.**
Tarache abdominalis Grote, 1877, **comb. rev.**
Tarache knowltoni (McDunnough, 1940) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache flavipennis Grote, 1873, **comb. rev.**
Tarache lagunae (Mustelin & Leuschner, 2000) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache delecta (Walker, [1858]) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Acontia metallica Grote, 1865
Tarache lactipennis Harvey, 1875, **comb. rev.**
Tarache terminimaculata Grote, 1873, **comb. rev.**
Tarache pulchella Grote, 1874
Tarache dacia (Druce, 1889) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache curvilinea Barnes & McDunnough, 1913

Tarache phrygionis (Hampson, 1910) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.***
Tarache cratina (Druce, 1889) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.***
Tarache isolata (Todd, 1960) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.***
Tarache quadriplaga (Smith, 1900) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Acontia alessandra Smith, 1903, **syn. n.**
Tarache tetragona (Walker, [1858]) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Acontia aprica var. *ceyvenstensis* Dyar, 1904
Tarache gonoides McDunnough, 1943
Tarache ardoris Hübner [1831], **comb. rev.***
Tarache duenna Schaus, 1898
Tarache morides (Schaus, 1894) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.***
Tarache ochrochroa Druce, 1909, **syn. n.**
Tarache parana (Jones, 1921), **comb. rev.***
Tarache rufescens Hampson, 1910, **comb. rev.***
Tarache areloides (Barnes & McDunnough, 1912) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache areletta (Dyar, 1897) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.** *
Tarache areli (Strecker, 1898) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache toddi (Ferris & Lafontaine, 2009) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache geminocula (Ferris & Lafontaine, 2009) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache albifusa (Ferris & Lafontaine, 2009) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache arida (Smith, 1900) (*Acontia*), **comb. n**.
Tarache bella Barnes & Benjamin, 1922, **comb. rev.**
Tarache cora Barnes & McDunnough, 1918, **comb. rev.**
Tarache expolita Grote, 1882, **comb. rev.**
Acontia embolima Druce, 1889
Tarache phaenna (Druce, 1889) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.***
Tarache idella (Barnes, 1905) (*Cerathosia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache augustipennis Grote, 1875, **comb. rev.**
Conacontia flavicosta Smith, 1900, **syn. n.**
Tarache huachuca (Smith, 1903) (*Conacontia*), **comb. n.**
Conacontia orba Smith, 1903 (*Conacontia*), **syn. n.**
Tarache sedata (H. Edwards, 1881), **comb. rev.**
Acontia gonella Strecker, 1898
Acontia niveicollis Smith, 1902
Acontia cacola Smith, 1907
Tarache acerba (H. Edwards, 1881) (*Fruva*) **comb. rev.**
[name preoccupied by *Acontia acerba* Felder & Rogenhofer, 1874 when included in *Acontia* by Poole (1983)]
Acontia acerboides Poole, 1989, **syn. n.** [becomes a synonym when secondary homonomy with *Acontia acerba* is removed]
Tarache axendra Schaus, 1898, **stat. rev.**, **comb. rev.**
Tarache bilimeki (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1874) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache bilimeci Hampson, 1910, invalid emendation

Acontia disconnecta Smith, 1903, **syn. n.**
Tarache mizteca Schaus, 1898, **comb. rev.***
Tarache major (Smith, 1900) (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Tarache lanceolata Grote, 1879, **comb. rev.**
Tarache lucasi Smith, 1900 (*Acontia*), **comb. n.**
Acontia aniluna Smith, 1905
Acontia pima Smith, 1905
Tarache vittamargo (Dyar, 1912), **comb. rev.***
Acontia Ochsenheimer, 1816 ** [Type species: *Noctua solaris* Denis & Schiffermüller; = *Acontia lucida* (Hufnagel)]
= *Stylorache* Hampson, 1910**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Stylorache albida* Hampson]
= *Chelichares* Hampson, 1910**, syn. n.** [Type species: *Chelichares nubifera* Hampson]
Acontia behrii Smith, 1900
Acontia cretata Grote & Robinson, 1870
Acontia neocula Smith, 1900
Acontia schwarzii Smith, 1900
Tarache schvarzi Hampson, 1910
Acontia fiebrigi (Zerny, 1916) (*Tarache*) *
Acontia chea Druce 1898
Acontia eudryada Smith, 1905, **syn. n.**
Acontia jaliscana (Schaus, 1898) (*Tarache*)
Acontia coquillettii Smith, 1900
Acontia micropis (Druce, 1909) (*Tarache*) *
Acontia albida (Hampson, 1910) (*Stylorache*), **comb. n.***
Acontia nubifera (Hampson, 1910) (*Chelichares*), **comb. n.***
Acontia ruffinellii (Biezanko, 1959) (*Hoplotarache*) *
Acontia viridifera (Hampson, 1910) (*Hoplotarache*), **comb. n.***
Eusceptis Hübner, [1823] [Type species: *Eusceptis irretita* Hübner]
= *Eugraphia* Guenée, 1852 [Type species: *Eusceptis irretita* Hübner]
Eusceptis irretita Hübner, 1823 *
Noctua melanogramma (Perty, [1833])
Eusceptis koehleri Todd, 1966 *
Eusceptis obscura (Schaus, 1898) (*Acontia*) *
Acontia trilinea (Schaus, 1898)
Eusceptis effusa (Druce, 1889) (*Eugraphia*) *
Eusceptis atriora Todd, 1966
Eusceptis flavifrimbriata Todd, 1971
Eusceptis incomptilinea Todd, 1971 *
Eusceptis lelae Todd, 1966 *
Eusceptis splendens (Druce, 1896) (*Eugraphia*) *
Eusceptis extensa (Strand, 1913) (*Eugraphia*) *
Eusceptis robertae Todd, 1966 *

Eusceptis paraguayensis (Draudt 1939) (*Eugraphia splendens* form) *
Pseudalypia H. Edwards, 1874 [Type species: *Pseudalypia crotchii* H. Edwards]
Pseudalypia crotchii H. Edwards, 1874
    Pseudalypia crotchii var. *atrata* H. Edwards, 1884
Spragueia Grote, 1875 [Type species: *Agrophila leo* Guenée]
    = *Heliocontia* Hampson, 1910 [Type species: *Emmelia apicella* Grote]
    = *Mnesipyrga* Meyrick, 1913 [Type species: *Mnesipyrga trichostrota* Meyrick]
Spragueia magnifica Grote, 1883
Spragueia dama (Guenée, 1852) (*Agrophila*)
    Agrophila transmutata Walker, 1865
    Agrophila trifariana Walker, 1865
    Spragueia pardalis Grote, 1881
Spragueia cleta (Druce, 1889) (*Agrophila*)
Spragueia perstructana (Walker, 1865) (*Agrophila*)
    Emmelia felina Herrich-Schäffer, 1868
    Emmelia trigridula Herrich-Schäffer, 1868
    Agrophila phaenna Druce, 1889
    Agrophila mata Druce, 1898
Spragueia guttata Grote, 1875
Spragueia onagrus (Guenée, 1852) (*Agrophila*)
Spragueia leo (Guenée, 1852) (*Agrophila*)
Spragueia jaguaralis Hampson, 1910
Spragueia funeralis Grote, 1881
Spragueia obatra (Morrison, 1875) (*Tarache*)
    Spragueia plumbifimbriata Grote, 1877
    Agrophila velata Strecker, 1898
Spragueia apicalis (Herrich-Schäffer, 1868) (*Emmelia*)
    Emmelia apicella Grote, 1872
    Agrophila truncatula Zeller, 1873
    Fruva accepta H. Edwards, 1881
    Mnesipyrga trichostrota Meyrick, 1913
Spragueia margana (Fabricius, 1794) (*Pyralis*)
    Grapholita subapicana Walker 1863
    Agrophila rudisana Walker 1865
    Spragueia inornata Grote 1882
    Spragueia sordida Grote, [1883]
    Emmelia variegata Möschler 1890
    Emmelia variegata var. *ochracea* Möschler, 1890
    Spragueia canofusa Hampson, 1898
    Spragueia tarasca Schaus, 1904
Spragueia basipuncta (Schaus, 1914) (*Helicontia*) *
Spragueia creton Schaus, 1923 *
    Spragueia plumbeata Schaus, 1923

Spragueia grana (Dognin, 1897) (*Agrophila*) *
Spragueia lepus (Guenée, 1852) (*Agrophila*) *
Aphusia marmorea Butler, 1879
Spragueia inversa Schaus, 1904
Spragueia taragma Schaus, 1904
Helicontia lepus subsp. *concordens* Dyar, 1914
Spragueia pantherula (Herrich-Schäffer, 1868) (*Emmelia*) *
Emmelia uncinula Herrich-Schäffer, 1868
Spragueia pyralidia (Schaus, 1898) (*Tarache*) *
Spragueia speciosa (Draudt, 1936) (*Heliacontia*) *
Spragueia turca Köhler, 1979 *
Spragueia valena (Druce, 1889) (*Acontia*) *
Trogotorna Hampson, 1910 [Type species: *Trogotorna persecta* Hampson]
Trogotorna persecta Hampson, 1910 *

Unknown species (types lost)
Acontia decisa Walker, [1858] TL: Brazil
Acontia quadrata Walker, 1866 TL: Brazil