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Nemapogon somchetiella Zagulajev, 1961, a new record for
the Italian fauna (Lepidoptera: Tineidae)

ABSTRACT - *Nemapogon somchetiella* Zagulajev, 1961 is reported for the first time from Northern Italy (Monferrato: Odalengo Grande, and Mantova: Bosco Fontana). These records are particularly important, because they added a new species to the Italian fauna, and are the first records of this species out of the type locality and the only area from which it was known so far (Caucasus).

KEY WORDS - Lepidoptera, Tineidae, *Nemapogon somchetiella*, first record, Northern Italy.

RIASSUNTO - *Nemapogon somchetiella* Zagulajev, 1961, una nuova specie per la fauna italiana (Lepidoptera: Tineidae). L'autore segnala *Nemapogon somchetiella* Zagulajev, 1961 (Lepidoptera: Tineidae) di due località dell'Italia settentrionale: Monferrato, Odalengo Grande, e Mantova, Bosco Fontana. Il dato è particolarmente interessante, in quanto aggiunge una specie nuova alla fauna italiana, e segnala per la prima volta la presenza di questa specie al di fuori della località tipica e dell'area (Caucaso) di cui era conosciuta finora.

INTRODUCTION

Amongst the Tineidae specimens from Italy that I received by my colleagues T. Grünwald (Landshut) and G. Baldizzone (Asti), I identified some individuals of *Nemapogon somchetiella* ZAGULAJEV, 1961. They were sampled in the following localities:

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1 ♂ Basso Monferrato, Odalengo Grande, Fraz. Monfavato (AL), 450 m, 8.V. 2007, leg. et Coll. BALDIZZONE.

5 ♂♂, Umg. [env. of] Mantua (= *Mantova*), Bosco de la (= *della*) Fontana, 5. - 6. 10. 2007, leg. T. GRÜNEWALD; Coll. GRÜNEWALD et Coll. DEI; (acronym: DEI Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Berlin)

COMMENTS

These are the first records of *Nemapogon somchetiella* for Italy and the first out of the Caucasian region. In fact, this species was described and known so far from Caucasus only (Russia: North Ossetia; Armenia; Georgia: Adzharia) (Zagulajev, 1961: 1186; 1964: 286).

The species is superficially not easily distinguishable from other species of the genus *Nemapogon* (fig. 1). Nevertheless, the drawing of forewing is

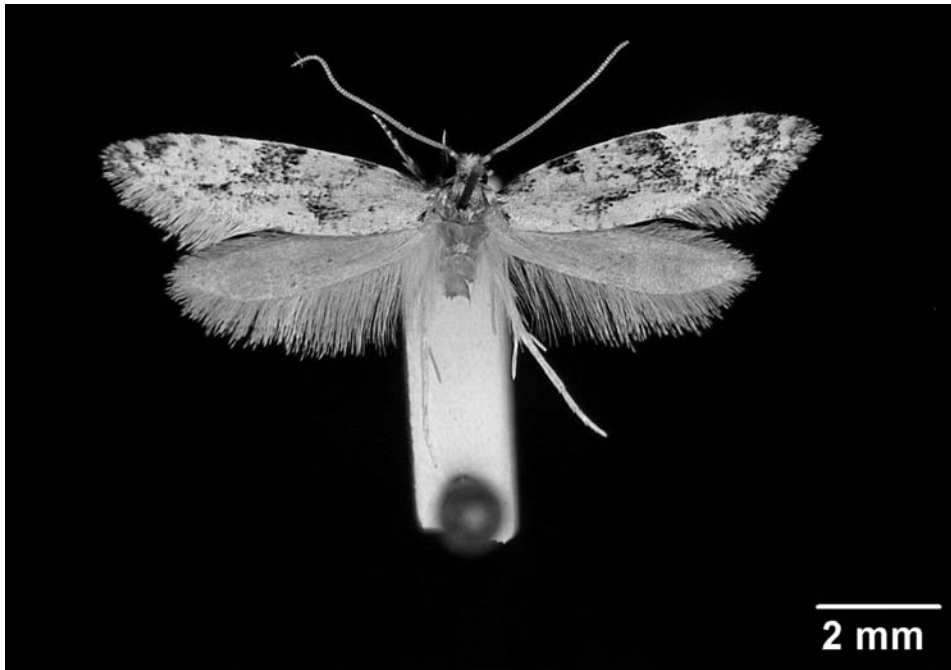


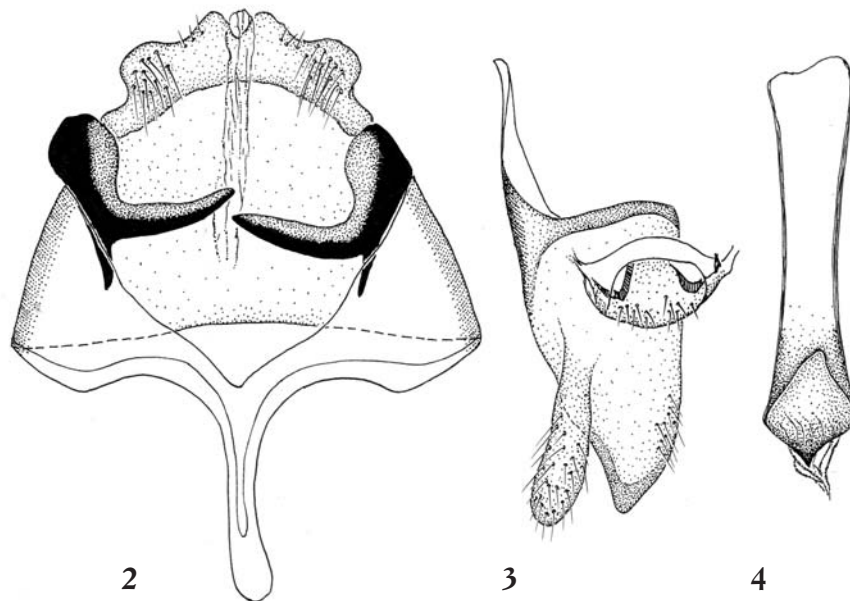
Fig. 1 - *Nemapogon somchetiella*: adult male, Piedmont (Asti), Odalengo Grande, leg. G. Baldizzone.

characteristic for the genus, and the head brush is white, with only some dark scales at the base of antennae. In general, the species is similar to *N. inconditella* (Lucas, 1956).

N. somchetiella is clearly distinguishable from all species of the genus known so far by the structure of genitalia (figs 2-4). Particularly characteristic is the shape of gnathos arms with the long pointed processus on the basal edge. The phallus is short, prolonged apically in a stronger sclerotized lateral tip.

Females are still unknown.

It will be interesting the future investigation of other biotopes looking for this species, especially female individuals. The dates of capture indicates that *N. somchetiella* should have two generations per year.



Figs. 2-4 - Male genitalia of *Nemapogon somchetiella*: 2) uncus-tegumen-complex; 3) valva with anellus; 4) phallus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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