

NEOEROMENE LUTEA
(LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE; CRAMBINAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM BRAZIL

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ABSTRACT. *Neoeromene lutea*, a new species of diptychophorine Crambinae, is described from three specimens from southern Brazil, raising the number of known species in this genus to seven. *Neoeromene lutea* shares juxtal apomorphies with *N. straminella* (Zeller), also of Brazil, but has less development in the costal region of the valva and in the apical sclerotization of the aedeagus.

Additional key words: *Neoeromene straminella*, Santa Catarina.

The neotropical Crambinae assigned to *Pareromene* Osthelder by Błeszyński (1967) were recently transferred to new genera, one of them *Neoeromene* (Gaskin 1986). To prove the well-known unwritten rule that a tidy revision of a taxonomic group is by far the best way to stimulate discovery of all that other material the author missed, Julian Donahue contacted me immediately and drew my attention to three specimens from Brazil, taken by E. D. Jones, in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. This paper describes these, which are conspecific and represent the only known specimens of a hitherto unrecognized species of *Neoeromene*. The name *lutea* is applied, with reference to the brilliant yellow-orange ground color of the forewings. In the description, decimals indicate the position of a feature, as a proportion of the total length of a structure or organ. In the forewing, measurements along the costa are from the base, on the termen from the apex, and along fascia from the costa. In the male genitalia they are from the base of each structure.

***Neoeromene lutea*, new species**
(Fig. 1)

Description. Forewing length 7.5 mm ($N = 3$). Head and thorax bright yellow, latter with a black ring of scales anteriorly, patagia with a few scattered, large dark spots. Labial and maxillary palpi pale yellow with blackish apices. Abdomen pale brown with some scattered yellow scales, legs pale yellow banded with brown. Antennae with small bipectinations and no macroscopic sexual differences. Male frenulum single, female double. Ground color of forewings bright yellow, including apical and subterminal regions. Basal region with three blackish brown spots in an oblique line towards base of antemedial fascia which is at 0.4 from base, dark brown, narrow and tridentate in the form of a crude Greek letter ξ . There is a small brown streak on the costa at 0.5 and some variable dark streaks of scales in the reniform region of the disc. Postmedial fascia double, a pair of brown waved lines with a few lustrous silvery scales between them from costa to about 0.3, fascia then diverging towards dorsum, proximal line dentate at 0.8 from costa. There are three brown spots on the termen from 0.5–0.8. Apical zone contains a narrow, elongate,



FIG. 1. *Neoeromene lutea* n.sp. Male paratype from Santa Catarina, Brazil, and below, female paratype, unlabelled but from the same series in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

oblique silvery white streak from the costa, not reaching the termen. Subapical indentation present at 0.3 from apex, and a secondary indentation at 0.5, with some silvery scaling not quite reaching postmedial fascia. Ventral surfaces brownish, with apical and termen markings repeated from dorsal surface. Hindwings lustrous off-white in both sexes, with

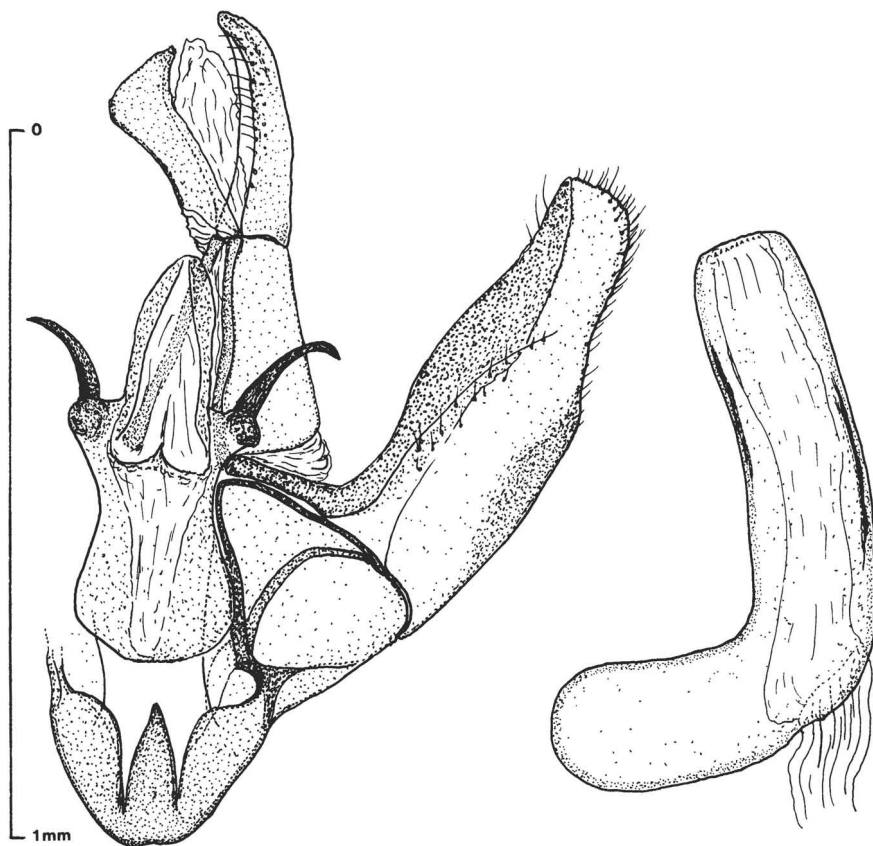


FIG. 2. *Neoreromene lutea*. Male holotype. Genitalia in posterior aspect, with left valva not shown (left) and aedeagus (right).

white cilia with brown bases, giving the appearance of a double brown marginal line. The cilia of the forewings are lustrous gray-brown.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2) (N = 1). Uncus curved, with blunt apex; gnathos slightly shorter than uncus, curved dorsad with apical region significantly swollen, bluntly pointed; tegumen squat with strong posterior margins; saccus broadly rounded, vinculum broadly triangular. Juxta a large complex structure, with a spatulate apex equal in length to uncus, and a broadly rounded basal region, the whole about $2\times$ uncus; below apical area a pair of lateral swellings each have a sharp prong, about $0.5\times$ uncus, curved extrorse. Valva about $2\text{--}2.5\times$ uncus [depending how measured, basally or along costa] with a sclerotized costal region reaching the bluntly rounded apex. Aedeagus about $1.3\times$ length of valva, sharply curved ventrad in proximal third, with a pair of elongate lateral striations and some minute apical spines.

Types: Holotype δ ; without label but probably same as for paratype male. Paratypes: 1 δ , BRAZIL, Santa Catarina, -4.1922, E. D. Jones; 1 \varnothing without label. Both paratypes lack their abdomen. Consequently, the only specimen with an abdomen has been designated as holotype, even though it has no locality label.

Discussion. *Neoeromene lutea* resembles *N. straminella* (Zeller) in most major forewing characters, but the yellow-orange ground colour and the dark, strongly marked fascia immediately distinguish the former species. There is little variation between the three specimens examined. Like *N. straminella*, *N. lutea* has a proportionately huge, apically bicornuate juxta. The form of the valva in both species is almost identical except that *N. straminella* has a basal prong. Both differ from all other species in the genus except *N. felix* (Meyrick) in having virtually no sclerotization in the sacculus of the valva. *Neoeromene lutea* has the least apical sclerotization of the aedeagus in the genus, represented only by a row of microscopic prongs. The apically swollen gnathos and the blunt, setulose uncus closely resemble those of *N. parvipuncta* Gaskin, also of Brazil. The early stages, food plants and duration of the flight period (which included April), are unknown.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Julian P. Donahue, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, for bringing this material to my attention and arranging the loan, and two anonymous reviewers for constructive criticism.

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Received for publication 30 November 1988; accepted 15 May 1989.