

The Moths of North America

Fascicle 9.6

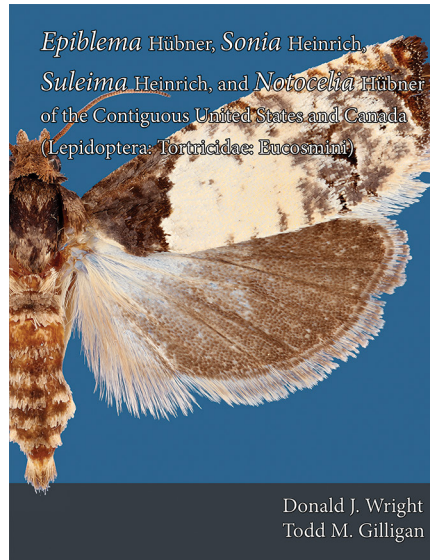
Epiblema Hübner, *Sonia* Heinrich, *Suleima* Heinrich, and *Notocelia* Hübner of the Contiguous United States and Canada (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae: Eucosmini)

by Donald J. Wright and Todd M. Gilligan

280 pages, 87 species accounts, 36 colored plates, 38 monochrome plates. Hardbound with dust jacket. ISBN 978-0-933003-22-4. Published in 2023 by the Wedge Entomological Research Foundation.

Epiblema Hübner, *Sonia* Heinrich, *Suleima* Heinrich, and *Notocelia* Hübner of the Contiguous United States and Canada (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae: Eucosmini) is the third volume by Wright and Gilligan treating Eucosmini of North America. The authors review a total of 83 species representing four genera in the tribe Eucosmini that occur in the contiguous United States and Canada. Diagnostic morphological features useful in species identification are emphasized. Included are 51 species of *Epiblema* Hübner, 15 species of *Sonia* Heinrich, 11 species of *Suleima* Heinrich, and 6 species of *Notocelia* Hübner. Twenty new species are described.

This volume is in the same format as the past two volumes in this series on *Eucosma* and *Pelochrista* (Wright and Gilligan 2015, 2017). Species are numbered sequentially as they appear in the book and these numbers are also used to refer to the adult and genitalia plates. Several numbers are assigned to morphospecies or complexes that are not described. Each species account includes information on the taxonomy/synonymy, type information and discussion, morphological description, distribution, adult flight period, and biology (if known). The plates include 540 images of adults in full color and 612 genitalia drawings.



3. *Epiblema lactuiniata* Blanchard, 1984

[Plate C-3, 3a-b; Plate 2, 3a-f]

Epiblema lactuiniata Blanchard 1984:216, MoB: 1985:17; Bown 2005:294; Gilligan et al. 2008:121.

Epiblema lactuina Blanchard 1979:181 [nomenclotype]

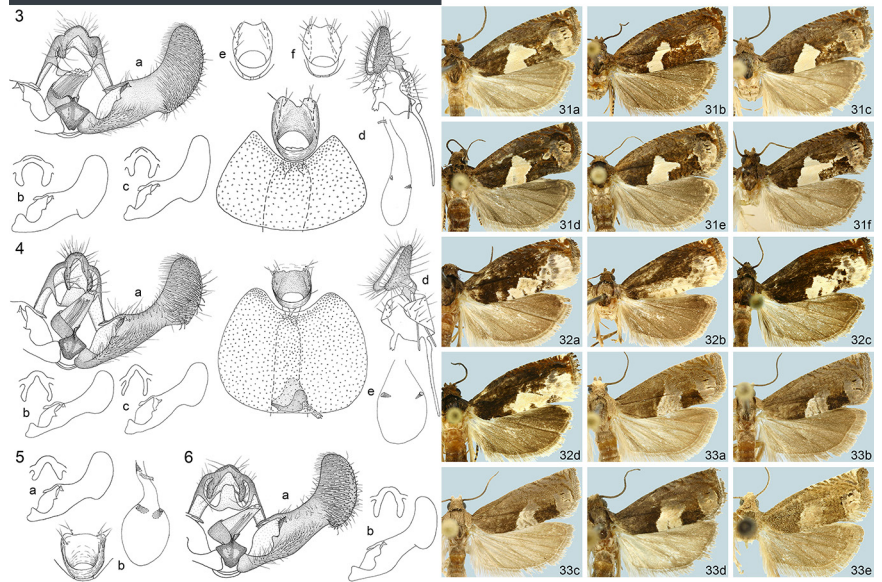
Holotype, ♂, Texas, Nueces County, North Padre Island, 6 April 1978, slide 69757, USNM.

This species originally was described as *E. lactuina*, a name subsequently found to be preoccupied by the European *Epiphyphanta lactuina* Duponchel 1835, a synonym of *Epiblema exalbidum* Denis and Schiffenmüller 1775 (Blanchard 1984). The type series includes 51 paratypes (29 ♂, 22 ♀) from various localities in Texas.

Epiblema lactuiniata is similar in size to typical *E. minutana* (mean FWL = 6.1 vs. 6.0 mm) but has a broader forewing (AR = 2.82 vs. 3.15). The predominant forewing color is gray, sometimes lightly tinted with brown (Plate C-3d), usually with a fine salt-and-pepper appearance produced by numerous white-tipped scales (Plate C-3b-c). In typical specimens (Plate C-3a-c), the interfascial spot is whitish, extends from the inner margin into the discal cell, and may be suffused with pale pink. These features are usually sufficient to separate specimens of *E. lactuiniata* from those of *E. minutana*. Infrequently, the interfascial spot is nearly concolorous with the basal patch and the median fascia (Plate C-3d, g-h), in which case an examination of the genitalia may be necessary to obtain an accurate determination. The image in Plate C-3b depicts a particularly melanic male from Louisiana that we tentatively refer to this taxon based on similarity in genitalia. In all phenotypes, the scellus is conspicuous, with pale-pink transverse bars on the lateral margins. Its narrow white central field has two longitudinal black dashes, one located centrally and the other near the anterior extremity. The white costal strigulae are sharply delimited by blackish dashes and have associated gray striae that extend toward the termen.

In males, the socius is moderately short, nearly uniform in width, and has an evenly rounded apex. Compared to typical *E. minutana*, the vesica has fewer cornuti (9–16, mean = 11, n = 7 vs. 14–25, mean = 20, n = 11), the valvul neck is broader (VR = 0.75 vs. 0.64), and the cucullus is slightly more elongate (length-to-width ratio = 2.16 vs. 1.99). The aculear corner of the valva tends to be weakly defined, with SA = 158° and the basal process is only moderately developed. In females, the sternigma is substantially ovate, with the posterior margin weakly emarginated. Compared to typical *E. minutana*, it is slightly more elongate (length-to-width ratio = 1.66 vs. 1.55). The ductus bursae and corpus bursae are conspicuously long and narrow, the former lacking sclerotization, the latter with two small signs of nearly equal size. These last features distinguish *E. lactuiniata* from all other members of the group except possibly *E. olivaceus*, for which the female is unknown.

We examined 40 specimens (26 ♂, 14 ♀). Most were collected in southeastern Colorado, southwestern Kansas, or Texas, but we found three records from Putnam County, Illinois and one from Boone County, Kentucky. Miller (1987) reported *E. lactuiniata* from Michigan and Minnesota. We have not seen specimens that support those last records and, therefore, cannot confirm the determinations, but Miller's illustrations of the valva and sternigma conform to ours. Adult capture dates range from 6 April to 27 November, with most records from June–August.



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Please send me ___ copy(ies) of *Epiblema* Hübner, *Sonia* Heinrich, *Suleima* Heinrich, and *Notocelia* Hübner of the Contiguous United States and Canada at the prepublication price of \$80.00 plus shipping (per copy: U.S. \$5; Canada \$38; Mexico \$39). This offer expires on December 31, 2023. Thereafter the price will be \$90.00 plus shipping. Publication is scheduled for November, 2023. Please visit www.wedgefoundation.org to order this volume or any of our other fascicles, including the new Checklist of North American Lepidoptera!