**INTRODUCTION**

Genus *Caeneressa* Obraztsov (1957) was established on its type species *Syntomis diaphana* (Kollar) from Kashmir, India in order to provide stability to Oriental species previously placed under three genera, i.e., *Amata* Fabricius, *Syntomis* Ochsenheimer and *Eressa* Walker. Besides this, seven new species viz., *proxima*, *klapperichi*, *hoenei*, *dispar*, *zernyi*, *ningyuena*, *tienmushana* and six new combination *C. pratti* (Leech), *C. obsoleta* (Leech), *C. swinhoei* (Leech), *C. oenone* (Butler), *C. graduata* (Hampson) and *C. rubruzonata* (Pouj.) were also described in this publication by Obraztsov. Holloway (1988) followed the same nomenclature and described one new species, *C. marcescoides* Holloway under this genus and also shifted seven other species under genus *Caeneressa* Obraztsov from Borneo.

In the present manuscript, external genitalia of three species have been studied and a new combination has been proposed, *Caeneressa melaena* (Walker) comb. nov. Further, *C. muirheadi* (Felder) and *C. brithyris* (Druce) have also been recorded on the basis of external genitalia features. With these records, genus *Caeneressa* will be represented by five species from India, *Caeneressa diaphana* (Kollar), *Caeneressa diaphana muirheadi* (Felder), *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce), *Caeneressa melaena* (Hampson) and *Caeneressa swinhoei* (Leech). The studied material was collected from North-Eastern states of India. *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce) was collected near riverside at low altitude whereas the other two species were collected at high altitude.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

*Order Lepidoptera*

*Family Erebidae*

Genus *Caeneressa* Obraztsov

*Order Lepidoptera*

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*Genus Caeneressa* Obraztsov

*Caeneressa diaphana* (Kollar), *Caeneressa diaphana muirheadi* (Felder), *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce), *Caeneressa melaena* (Hampson) comb. nov., and *Caeneressa swinhoei* (Leech) were all described in this publication by Obraztsov. Holloway (1988) followed the same nomenclature and described one new species, *C. marcescoides* Holloway under this genus and also shifted seven other species under genus *Caeneressa* Obraztsov from Borneo.

**ABSTRACT**

*Caeneressa diaphana muirheadi* (Felder) and *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce) have been recorded for the first time from India. Further, a new combination viz. *Caeneressa melaena* (Walker) comb. nov., has also been proposed on the basis of external genitalia features. With these records, genus *Caeneressa* will be represented by five species from India, *Caeneressa diaphana* (Kollar), *Caeneressa diaphana muirheadi* (Felder), *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce), *Caeneressa melaena* (Hampson) and *Caeneressa swinhoei* (Leech). The studied material was collected from North-Eastern states of India. *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce) was collected near riverside at low altitude whereas the other two species were collected at high altitude.

**Keywords:** Lepidoptera, Syntominae, *Caeneressa*, new records, India

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Fig. 1. Caeneressa melaena (Walker). A, Adult (female); B, Forewing; C, Hindwing; D, Female genitalia. ANT.APO, anterior apophyses; CRP.BU, corpus bursae; CU1, first cubital vein; CU2, second cubital vein; DU.BU, ductus bursae; M1, first median vein; M2, second median vein; M3, third median vein; PAP.A, papilla analis; PO.APO, posterior apophyses; R1, first radial vein; R2, second radial vein; R3, third radial vein; R4, fourth radial vein; R5, fifth radial vein; Rs, radial sector; Sc, subcosta; SIG, signum; 1A, first anal vein.
Fig. 2. *Caeneressa brithyris* (Druce). A, Adult (male); B, Forewing; C, Hindwing; D, Male genitalia; E, Aedeagus; F, Uncus (dorsal view). AED, aedeagus; CRN, cornutus; Cu1, first cubital vein; Cu2, second cubital vein; DU.EJ, ductus ejaculatorius; M1, first median vein; M2, second median vein; M3, third median vein; R2, second radial vein; R3, third radial vein; R4, fourth radial vein; Rs, fifth radial vein; Sc, subcosta; SA, saccus; TG, tegumen; UN, uncus; VES, vesica; VIN, vinculum; VLV, valva; 1A, first anal vein.
Fig. 3. *Caenereessa diaphans mulrheadi* (Felder). A, Adult (male); B, Forewing; C, Hindwing; D, Male genitalia; E, Uncus with Tegumen (lateral view); F, Aedeagus. AED, aedeagus; CRN, cornutus; CU1, first cubital vein; CU2, second cubital vein; DU.EJ, ductus ejaculatorious; M1, first median vein; M2, second median vein; M3, third median vein; R2, second radial vein; R3, third radial vein; R4, fourth radial vein; R5, fifth radial vein; Rs, radial sector; SA, saccus; Sc, subcosta; TG, tegumen; UN, uncus; VES, vesica; VIN, vinculum; VLV, valva; 1A, first anal vein.
Material examined. India: Mizoram, Champhai, 1,680 m, 26 Sep 2009, (2♀) coll. R. Joshi (registration no. PUP/RJ-199).

Description. Male genitalia with uncus long, sclerotized, narrow at base, broad towards apex, apical spine present; tegumen sclerotized, bell-shaped, as long as uncus; vinculum as long as tegumen, deep V-shape; saccus present. Juxta sclerotized, globular; transtilla weakly sclerotized. Valvae leaf-like, not well differentiated into costal and saccular processes, thickened near middle. Aedeagus hammer-shaped, long, sclerotized; vesica membranous with an extensive field of short spines, a small sclerotized patch at another end; ductus ejaculatorius entering sub-apically.

Wing span. Male 38 mm.

Distribution. China, India.

Remarks. Obraztsov (1957) shifted muirheadi as subspecies under C. diaphana by proposing a new combination for it. However, in muirheadi uncus is slightly narrow than typical diaphana. This is the first record of muirheadi (Felder) from India.

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