

A new *Anagnorisma* moth species from the beautiful Binaloud Mountain Iran

July 17 2013



This image shows a female *Anagnorisma chamrani*. Credit: Mehdi Esfandiari

Researchers described a new species of Noctuidae moth from Iran which is the fifth described species of the genus *Anagnorisma*. The new species *A. chamrani* has its name in honour of Dr. Mostafa Chamran (1932-1981), an Iranian scientist and defence minister. The study was published in the open access journal [Zookeys](#).

During an expedition at high altitude of above 2500 m of north-eastern Iran on a cold night in late summer 2012, a couple of undescribed specimens of *Anagnorisma* moths were collected. The specimens had been attracted to an ultraviolet light trap on the Binaloud Mountain near

Mashhad city, the capital of the Khorasan-e-Razavi province of Iran. They have a [wingspan](#) of 34-35 mm. The new species was collected in a narrow river valley dominated by mountain sainfoin (*Onobrychis cornuta*), wild almond (*Prunus (Amygdalus) scoparia*), and downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*).

A. chamrani is the sister species of *A. eucratides*, which is only known from eastern Afghanistan at altitudes of 2050 to 2450 m of the Hindu Kush Mountains. *A. eucratides* is the most similar species to *chamrani* in the wing pattern, external and genitalia characteristics and it is also the closest geographically.



This image shows the habitat of the new species in Binaloud Mountain near Mashhad city. Credit: Mehdi Esfandiari



This image show a male representative of the new moth species *Anagnorisma chamrani*. Credit: Mehdi Esfandiari

Owlet moths (family Noctuidae) are a large worldwide group of more than 20,000 species of nocturnal lepidopterans, attracted to lights and mostly have dull protective coloration, although some exceptions occur. Most adults feed on fruits, sap, nectar, or other sweet fluids. The [larvae](#) vary considerably in size, and range from dull to colourful and from smooth to hairy. Many species feed on foliage and seeds, whereas others bore through stems and fruits. Larvae of some [species](#) are known as cutworms and live in the soil near the [soil surface](#), and they bite off young plants just above ground level at night.

More information: *ZooKeys* 317: 17–25. [doi: 10.3897/zookeys.317.5515](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.317.5515)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: A new Anagnorisma moth species from the beautiful Binaloud Mountain Iran (2013, July 17) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-07-anagnorisma-moth-species-beautiful-binaloud.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.