

Two new snout moth genera and three new species discovered in southern China

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The newly discovered snout moth species *Androconia rallusa* shown in resting position. Credit: Mingqiang Wang

New members have joined the ranks of the snout moths - one of the largest groups within the insect order known formally as Lepidoptera, comprising all moths and butterflies.

Recently, taxonomists Dr. Mingqiang Wang, Dr. Fuqiang Chen, Prof. Chaodong Zhu and Prof. Chunsheng Wu of the Institute of Zoology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences described two genera and three [species](#) previously unknown to science discovered in southern China.

Their study is published in the open access journal *ZooKeys*.

Having named one of the two new genera *Androconia*, the scientists acknowledge a peculiar characteristic feature in these moths. The name derives from androconium, which is a set of modified scales located on the forewing in males and used to produce odors attractive to females. Not only is this feature evident in the newly described genus, but it also amazes with its shape reminiscent of a tower. The genus currently hosts two species - both described in the present study.

The second [new genus](#), named *Arcanusa*, is established based on a species already discovered back in 2003, however, misplaced in another genus. The third new species announced in the present paper is also assigned to this [genus](#).

In conclusion, the authors note that given the latitude they discovered all of the studied moths, it is highly likely that more species belonging to the newly described genera are pending discovery in the adjacent countries - especially India.



Habitat of the newly described snout moth species *Androconia rallusa*, southern China. Credit: Mingqiang Wang

More information: Mingqiang Wang et al, Two new genera and three new species of Epipaschiinae Meyrick from China (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae), *ZooKeys* (2017). [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.722.12362](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.722.12362)

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