



## Abnormal male genitalia in *Bryotropha galbanella* (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae)

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Itämies, Juhani 1996: Abnormal male genitalia in *Bryotropha galbanella* (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae). — *Sahlbergia* 3: 30.

Genitalia of *Bryotropha galbanella* (Zeller) from Finland with an abnormal gnathos is described and compared with those typical of the species.

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The *Bryotropha* species are known for their strong gnathos region, a feature which is of good diagnostic value for identification purposes (Svensson 1962). *B. galbanella* (Zeller) is characterized by a broad uncus and a long gnathos, which is twisted close to the tip (Svensson 1962). When identifying moths in a light trap catch from Kuusamo (trap no. 1106 of Finnish nocturnal monitoring) (Grid 27° E, 7366:613) the author found a male *Bryotropha* specimen of a surprising appearance, as it had a peculiar forked gnathos which differed from the normal pattern quite radically (Fig. 1 and 2). As the other features of genitalia were similar to with those of *B. galbanella*, this specimen apparently represents a whim of nature. It is impossible to say whether it was externally aberrative, because it was made into a slide intact, but it was in any case very worn, which is why it was in the first place cooked!

There exists some variation in the genitalia of this species of course, but an aberration of this kind must be quite exceptional. Kyrki (1980) found one male of *Coleophora taenipennella* H-S. with abnormal genitalia. It is difficult to tell, how such abnormalities affect copulation but they obviously represent rare peculiarities.

### References

- Kyrki, J. 1980: Abnormal genitalia in *Coleophora taenipennella* (Lepidoptera, Coleophoridae). — *Notulae Entomologicae* 60:103-104.
- Svensson, I. 1962: Northern *Bryotropha* Hein.-species. (In Swedish with English summary) — *Flora og Fauna* 68:61-69.

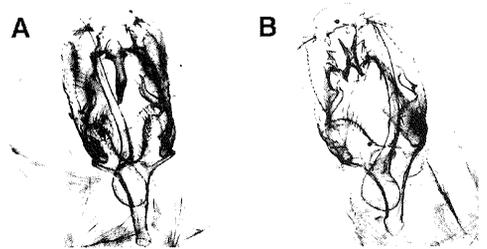


Fig. 1. *Bryotropha galbanella* (Zeller) (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae) male genitalia. A. Typical genitalia slide no. 1000, and B. abnormal genitalia, slide no. 1001/J. Itämies. Both are labelled "Suomi Ks:Kuusamo, 7366:613 "1106", ->28.07.1993 J. Itämies & J. Viramo leg." (the number in brackets refers to the trap number in the system of Finnish nocturnal monitoring).



Fig. 2. Closer view of the abnormal gnathos of *Bryotropha galbanella* (see also Fig. 1).