

Provisional atlas and checklist of the Alucitidae fauna of Hungary (Lepidoptera)

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FAZEKAS, I.: *Provisional atlas and checklist of the Alucitidae fauna of Hungary (Lepidoptera).*

Abstract: Hungarian Alucitidae are revised and a list of localities is provided. Biology, habitats and comments on the limits of the distribution are given. 8 species and 2 genera are known from Hungary. Provisional grid map of the distribution area of the all species in Hungary. This list is used as a guide for the provisional distribution maps of the species. In the material available now, *Alucita cancellata* (Meyrick, 1908) and *A. palodactyla* Zeller, 1847 are mentioned new for Hungary.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Alucitidae, new records, faunistic survey, biology, distribution maps, Hungary.

Introduction

The present study aims to gather all the information available on the distribution and biology of Alucitidae in Hungary in order to make a starting point for a further paper on the dynamics of distribution limits. The information was mainly derived from lepidopterological collections and faunistic studies. The data assembled relate to the time span from 1896 (ABAFI-AIGNER et al. 1896) to 2010 (PASTORÁLIS 2010). According to ABAFI-AIGNER et al. (1896) “*Omnium qui apud nos lepidopterist studuerunt primus fuit A. J. Scopoli, professor academiae Selmecziensis, qui in altera parte saeculi prioris, annis 1766–1776 studii causa Lepidoptera colligebat...*”. This period is long enough to notice remarkable changes in range limits of particular species.

Eight species of Alucitidae are known to occur in Hungary and 22 species in Europe. Many species are poorly identified and many mistakes have been made in the past. For this reason, older references are unreliable, making it difficult to be conclusive on the distribution. The knowledge of the biology is limited. GOZMÁNY (1955) redescribed the Hungarian species' diagnostic characters on several pages, and described what was known of their biology and distribution. In the last 45 years, the Alucitidae have attracted little attention from Hungarian researchers; many records in the Hungarian literature are doubtful and the identification of the species has been uncertain.

This study includes original reference to all available names. A summary of the Hungarian distribution and phenology is given, with detailed information about flight period, biology including foodplants and habitat including the altitudinal range.

Material and methods

The information presented here is taken from available literature and from Alucitidae specimens personally identified by the author. Where possible, the most recent literary sources have been used. Over 600 specimens have been examined, among them those in private Collections and in the following museums and institutions: Komló, Pécs, Kaposvár, Zirc, Szombathely, Budapest, Gyöngyös. Distribution maps of the species show the hypothetical resident distribution area (grey), combined with localities from which specimens have been examined (black dots).

A brief account of Hungarian landscape types

The geographical distribution of the taxa is presented in accordance with the six Hungarian macroregions, and is shown to be exceedingly different from region to region (Fig. 1).

(1) Great Hungarian Plain (=HP); (2) Little Plain (=LP); (3) West Hungarian Borderland (=WB); (4) Transdanubian Hills (=TH); (5) Transdanubian Mountains (=TM); (6) North Hungarian Mountains (=NM).

(1) The Great Hungarian Plain

Flat plains, 75–200 m. Plain with moderately continental climate, landscape types predominantly used for agriculture. On the Great Hungarian Plain one finds a more severe summer microclimate, however, than is generally prevalent in forested regions of central Europe, since the combination of open steppe and soda flats produces often relatively high surface temperatures during the summer. Average temperatures for the plain are 22°C in July and –2°C in January. Recorded maximum and minimum extremes are about 39°C and –28°C. Natural vegetation: Oak forests and grassland on sand, loess steppe, alkaline vegetation on solonchalk alluvial forests and swamps. The Hungarian Plain is perhaps a typical example of the steppe or other grassland habitats favoured by many Alucitidae, as far as is known, although the moths may actually prefer slight hill-sides on the periphery of steppes.

(2) Little Plain

Flat plains, 75–200 m. Alluvial plain; cultivated grassland with high groundwater table and hygromorphous soils. Natural vegetation: alluvial forests and swamps, and at higher elevations oak forests and grassland on sand as well as loess steppe.

(3) West Hungarian Borderland

Valleys, foothills, mountains of medium altitude with broad ridges, 150–883 m. Eroded hills in the sub alpine regions on brown loess and pseudogley soils with mosaics of forests mixed with Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) partly used for agriculture, as well as eroded hills (250–350) with lessivated brown forest soil on brown loess; partly used for agriculture. Natural vegetation: mainly Illyrian oak-hornbeam forests as well as Illyrian beech forests and oak forests mixed with Scots pine.

(4) Transdanubian Hills

Valleys, hills, foothills, mountains of medium altitude, 150–682 m. Mainly in the west fixed sandy plain with minor dunes, cultivated grassland on brown earth, locally with forestation and orchards. In the east at first independent hilly regions dissected by

eroded valleys, mostly cultivated grassland with deep groundwater table, vineyards and major remnants of mixed forests. In the southerly forested landscape types in mountains of medium height (Mecsek Mts, Villányi Hills). Low of calcareous rock or sandstone with rendzina and lessivated brown forest soils, typically with *Tilio argenteae-Quercetum* or Illyrian oak-hornbeam forests (*Helleboro Carpinetum*), and mosaic Illyrian karst with hairy oak, karst shrub-forest and rock swards.

(5) Transdanubian Mountains

Mountains of 200–756 m. altitude, mainly low mountains under additional sub-Atlantic and submediterranean climatic influence. *Quercetum petraeae cerris* and *Quercetum petraeae Carpinetum* forests. In part hills dissected by eroded valleys; cultivated grassland with mosaic of vineyards and orchards and *Quercetum petraeae cerris* forests and deep groundwater table. On the mountain slopes are many kinds of karst shrub-forests and rock swards, e.g. in the Bakony Mts, in the Vértes Mts and in the Budai Mts.

(6) North Hungarian Mountains

Mountains of medium altitude, 300–1015 m. Extremely variable landscape type. In one respect a characteristic is the crests of volcanic mountains with black “nyirok” (regiolith) and podsolised brown forest soil, submontane beech forests (silviculture with touristic and recreational use Mátra Mts, Zempléni Mts). Elsewhere, the low mountains are predominantly of calcareous rocks with rendzina and brown earth (Bükk Mts, Aggteleki Karstland). The Bükk Mts and Aggteleki Karstland are at present a National Park. Natural vegetation: mainly *Quercetum petraeae cerris*, submontane oak hornbeam forests, submontane and montane beech forests, e.g. in the Mátra Mts (1015 m), in the Bükk Mts (958 m) and in the Zempléni Mts (783 m).

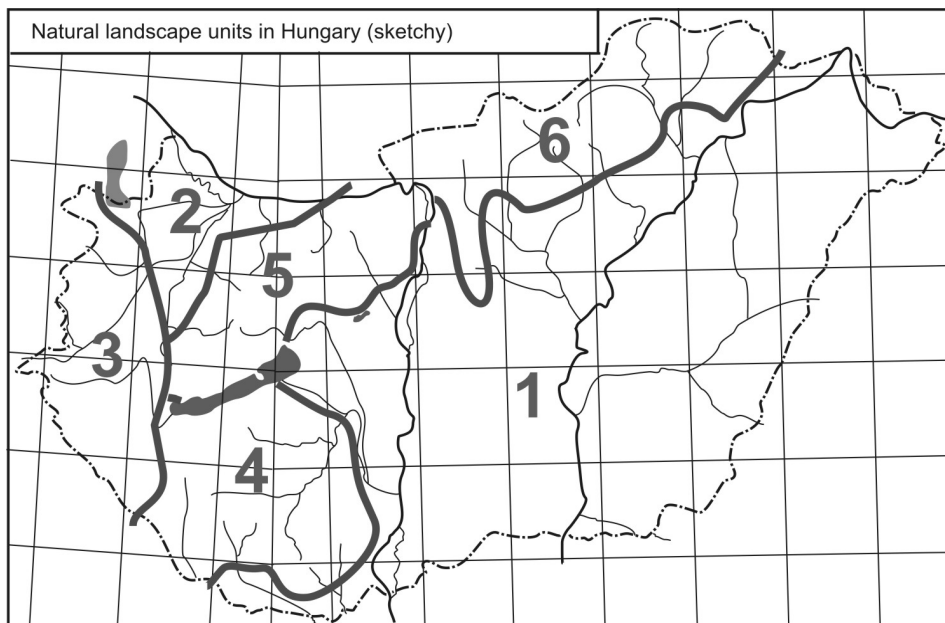


Fig. 1: Natural landscape units in Hungary: (1) Great Hungarian Plain, (2) Little Plain, (3) West Hungarian Borderland, (4) Transdanubian Hills, (5) Transdanubian Mountains, (6) North Hungarian Mountains.

Provisional systematic list of the Hungarian Alucitidae

References and literature: FAZEKAS 2002a, GOZMÁNY 1955, GIELIS 2003, PASTORÁLIS 2010, ZAGULAJEV 1986.

Alucita Linnaeus, 1758
cancellata (Meyrick, 1908)
cymatodactyla Zeller, 1852
hexadactyla Linnaeus, 1758
huebneri Wallengren, 1859
grammodactyla Zeller, 1841
palodactyla Zeller, 1847
desmodactyla Zeller, 1847
Pterotopteryx Hannemann, 1959
dodecadactyla (Hübner, [1813])

Expected, potential species from Hungary

[*Alucita bidentata* Scholz & Jaeck, 1994] – Known in the neighbouring countries: Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia.

[*Alucita major* (Rebel, 1905)] – Known in the neighbouring countries: Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia.

Abbreviations: HNHM= Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest; ?= uncertain.

Biology and distribution of Hungarian Alucitidae species

Selected references: ABAFI-AIGNER et al. 1896; BALOGH, 1967; BUSCHMANN 2004; BUSZKO 1977; FAZEKAS 2001, 2002ab, 2007, 2010; GIELIS 2003; GOZMÁNY 1955; HORVÁTH 1993; MEYRICK 1908; PASTORÁLIS 2010, PETRICH 2001; SCHOLZ & JAECK 1994; SCHWARZ 1953; SUTTER 1990; SPULER, 1908–1910; SZABÓKY 1982, 1983, 1994, 1995; SZÖCS 1956; USTJUSHANIN 1999; ZAGULAJEV 1986.

The list of references is by no means comprehensive but is provided should the reader wish to enquire further into the various aspects of alucitid systematics, bionomics and distribution.

Alucita cancellata (Meyrick, 1908)

Biology: Unknown in Hungary. No material found in Hungarian collections or in any localities.

Habitat: Unknown.

The distribution area in Hungary: It was not listed among the species expected to occur in Hungary (FAZEKAS 2002A, PASTORÁLIS 2010). According to GIELIS (2003), occurs in Hungary, but the record requires confirmation: the locality and date of capture of specimen unknown.

Distribution in Palaearctic: According to GIELIS (2003), known from Iran, Syria, Israel, Turkey, Russia, Moldavia, Romania, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, France.

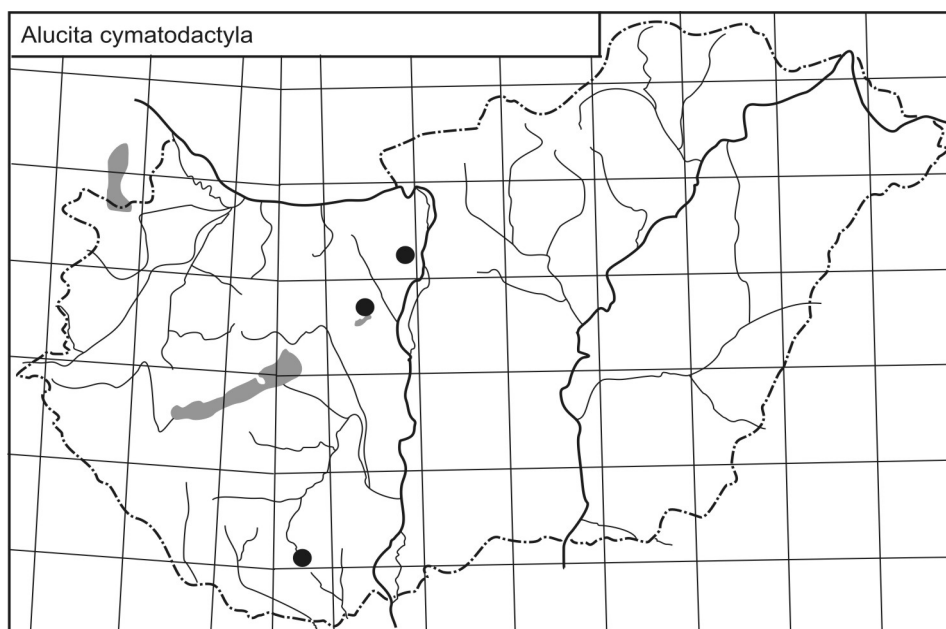


Fig. 2: Grid map of the distribution area of *Alucita cymatodactyla* in Hungary

Alucita cymatodactyla Zeller, 1852 (Fig. 2, 10. a)

Biology: Adults emerge in September, hibernate, then in spring from April to early July. Reported from localities in Mecsek Mts (BALOGH 1978). According to GOZMÁNY (1955), the foodplant unknown in Hungary.

Habitat: dry and semi-dry closed grasslands and riverine ash-alder woodlands (Mecsek Mts).

The distribution area in Hungary: TH – Pécs–Vasas (BALOGH 1978, FAZEKAS 2002, 2007); TM – Nadap, Budapest (PETRICH 2001, GOZMÁNY 1955), Budapest–Márton-hegy (SZŐCS 1956); – “SO-Ungarn” (SPULER 1908–1910). The species occurs only on the hills and foothills.

Distribution in Palaearctic: Up to the present it has been recorded from the following countries; Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia–Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, Spain, France.

Alucita hexadactyla Linnaeus, 1758 (Fig. 3, 10. b)

Biology: Moths have been collected from the beginning in August in North Hungarian Mountains (Bükk Mts.) at 900 m and again after hibernation until late May. The larva feeds on flowers of *Lonicera* spp. and causes a gall (SZŐCS 1977).

Habitat: closed thermophilous oak woodlands, thermophilous woodland fringes and turkey oak-sessile oak woodlands. Altitude from 300 m to 900 m.

The distribution area in Hungary: NM – Bálvány, “1949.08.24. and 28. leg. Issekutz L.” in coll. HNHM (BALOGH 1967, SZŐCS 1977); Bükk: Berva-völgy, Eger–Rétvölgy, Harica-völgy, Uppony (BUSCHMANN 2004, JABLONKAY 1972b). *A. hexadactyla* is apparently very rare and local in Hungary but could be overlooked and therefore careful search is required.

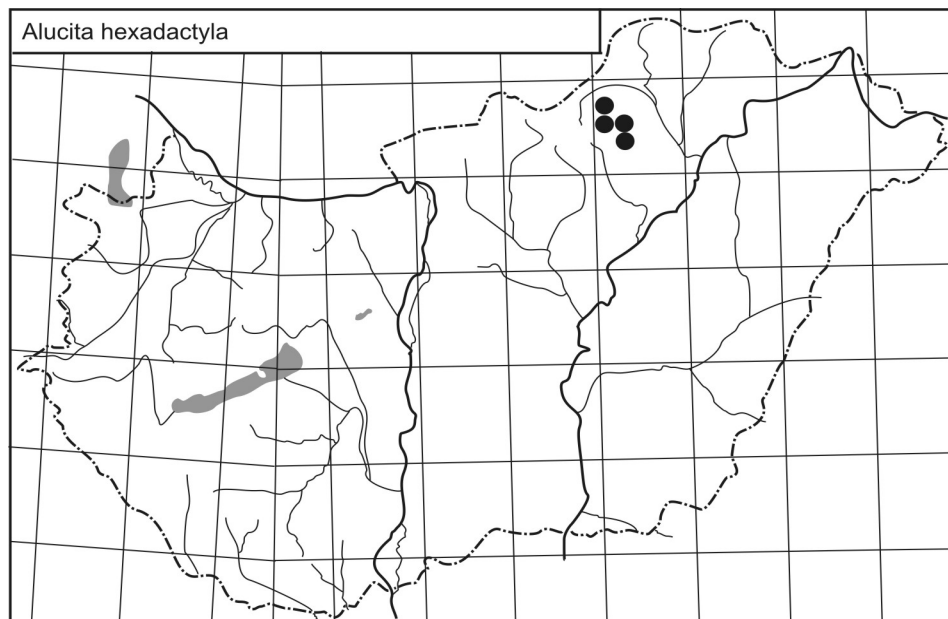


Fig. 3: Grid map of the distribution area of *Alucita hexadactyla* in Hungary

Distribution in Palaearctic: in east Europe: Russia, Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania, Belorussia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania; in north Europe: Norway, Sweden, Finland; in central Europe: Denmark, Germany, Switzerland Austria, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary; in west Europe: Ireland, Great Britain, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, France; in south Europe: Portugal, Spain, Corsica, Sardinia, Malta, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, ?Albania (unconfirmed), Macedonia, ?Bulgaria (unconfirmed), Greece, Crete; in north Africa: Morocco, Tunisia. Outside Palaearctic: SPULER (1908–1810) and SCHWARZ (1953) mentioned it from North America (unconfirmed).

Alucita huebneri Wallengren, 1859 (Fig. 4, 10. c)

Biology: The period of flight from May to June and in September. The larva feeds on flowers of *Scabiosa* spp. (SZÖCS 1977). Additional recorded foodplants are mainly species of *Centaurea* and *Knautia* (GOZMÁNY 1955). According to Hungarian authors, the larva lives within the flowers and on seeds.

Habitat: mesotrophic meadows, colline and montane hay meadows. Altitude from 200 m to 400 m.

The distribution area in Hungary: WB – Kőszeg; TM – Budapest; NM – Isaszeg (GOZMÁNY 1995, SZÖCS 1977). The species has a typical disjunct distribution in country, and is known only from three localities, the Kőszeg Mts in West Hungarian Borderland, the Budai Mts in Transdanubian Mountains and the Isaszeg in Gödöllői Hills. The collected data is very old.

Distribution in Palaearctic: Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, ?Moldavia (unconfirmed), Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Kosovo, ?Albania (unconfirmed), Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Bohemia, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Luxemburg, France, Portugal, Spain, Sardinia, Italy.

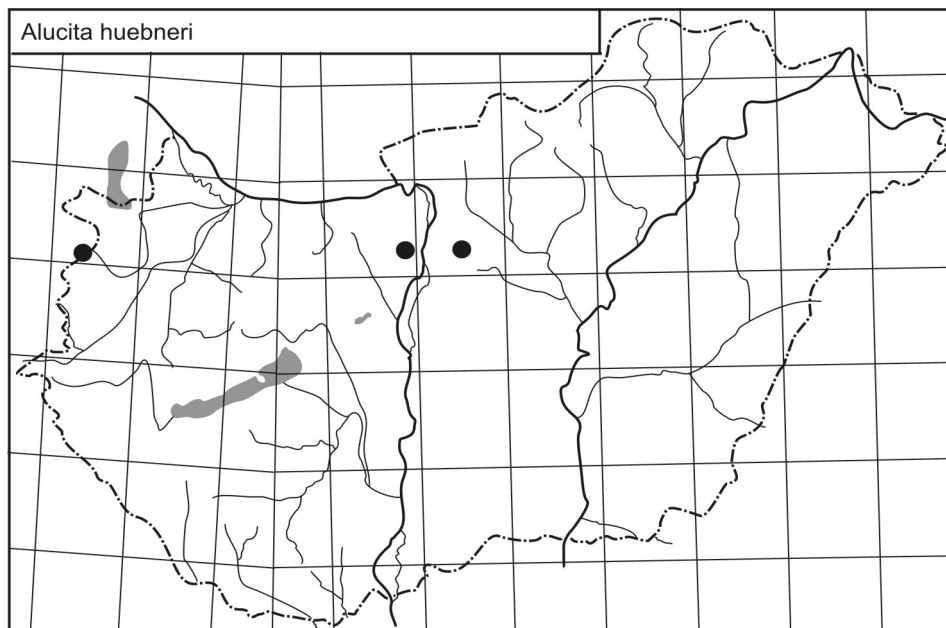


Fig. 4: Grid map of the distribution area of *Alucita huebneri* in Hungary

Alucita grammodactyla Zeller, 1841 (Fig. 5, 10. d)

Biology: The adults are on the wing from July to early September and again after hibernation until early June. The exact flight period is uncertain and therefore careful search is required. Foodplants: *Scabiosa columbaria* L. and *S. canescens* W. & K. (GIELIS 2003, GOZMÁNY 1955). The ground colour of the larvae is washed yellow, the head yellowish brown. In July, larval gall and cocoon in stem of *Scabiosa* spp. (GOZMÁNY 1955, SZŐCS 1977).

Habitat: moist rich fens, eu- and mesotrophic meadows, colline and montane hay meadows, acid grasslands and heaths. Altitude from 90 m to 900 m.

The distribution area in Hungary: HP – Apajpuszta, Bátorliget, Nagykáta, Újszentmargita; LP – Györszentiván: large-scale flight on light (Pastorális pers.com.; new record); WB – Szakonyfalu, Szalafő; TH – Villányi-Hills [Szársomlyó, Tenkes-hegy], Kaposvár, Balatonmáriafürdő; TM – Bakonykúti, Balatonfüred, Budapest–Mátyás-hegy, Csákerény, Csákvár, Csopak, Tihany, Nadap, Pázmánd, Várgesztes; NM – Aggtelek Karstland [Jósvafő, Komját], Bükk Mts (frequent), Mátra Mts (frequent), Fót (BUSCHMANN 2004; FAZEKAS 1993, 2001, 2002, 2007; GOZMÁNY 1953, GOZMÁNY, SZABÓKY 1983, 1986; JABLONKAY 1972AB; PETRICH 2001; SZABÓKY 1982, 1983, 1994, 1995, 1999; SZABÓKY & RÁCZ 2006). The species is mainly known from medium-height mountains and very local in the plains.

Distribution in Palearctic: Turkey, Greece, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Bohemia, Poland, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Malta, Spain, Portugal.

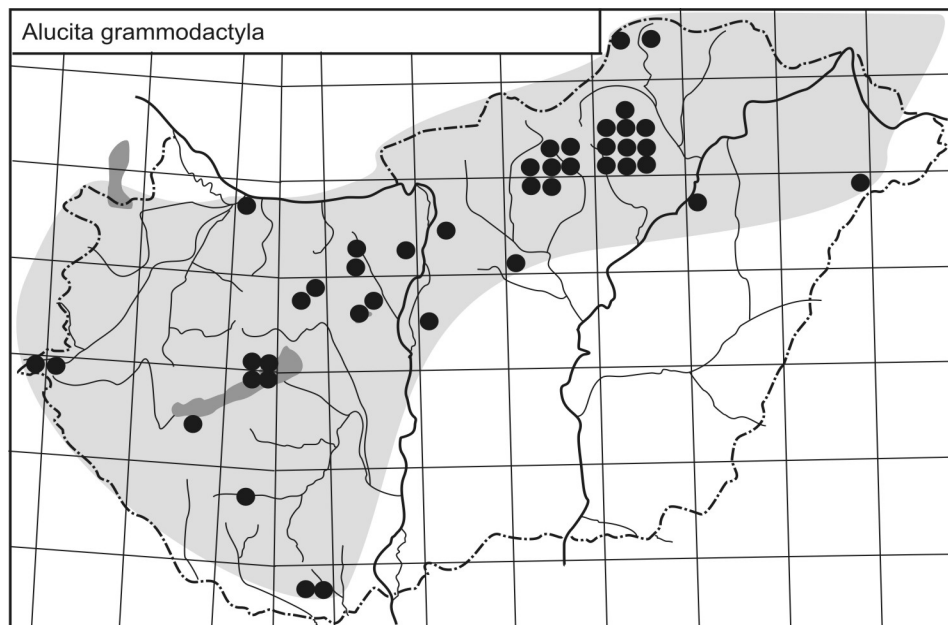


Fig. 5: Grid map of the distribution area of *Alucita grammodactyla* in Hungary

Alucita palodactyla Zeller, 1847 (Fig. 6, 7)

Alucita palodactyla Zeller, 1847 Isis von Oken 40: 908. Locus typicus: Sicily.

Synonyms: *Alucita perittodactyla* Staudinger, 1859; *Alucita parthenodactyla* Chrétien, 1915

References: GOZMÁNY 1955; GIELIS 2003; SCHOLZ & JÄCKH 1994; SCHWARZ 1953; ZAGULAJEV 1986.

Diagnosis: According to ZELLER (1847); "*Palporum articulo ultimo adscendenti brevi; alis albidis, fasciis duabus murinis per omnes continuatus, exteriori in costae maculam unicam coarctata.*"

Similar species: *Alucita kosterini* Ustjuzhanin, 1999; According to USTJUZHANIN (1999) by a widened distal part of uncus the new species is close to *A. palodactyla* from which it differs in the narrow ribbon-like valvae and pointed apex of the gnathos; in *A. palodactyla*, the valvae are wider and the gnathos apex is widened. In the absence of signa and the cup-like shape of the antrum the new species is close to *A. desmodactyla* Zeller, 1847 and *A. hexadactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 from which it differs in the oval shape of bursa, less elongated than in *A. hexadactyla*, and in the absence of the saccate process before the ductus, as in *A. desmodactyla*.

Genitalia: See in preceding text and at figures (Fig. 7.).

Biology: Recorded foodplants *Scabiosa rutaefolia* Vahl. (GIELIS 2003). This plant is unknown in Hungary, and the foodplant of the species in Hungary is unknown. Probably bivoltine; adults fly in May and from July to September. According to records, *A. palodactyla* is strongly associated with its food plants, and therefore the habitat requirements of the moth are completely correlated with those of the foodplants.

New data of distribution: 1♂, Hungary, Nyirád (46°56'16.03"N; 17°25'27.15"E), 14.09.2009, leg. et coll. Peter Davey (GB). A single specimen captured at light. It is a new species for Hungary, never having been reported before.

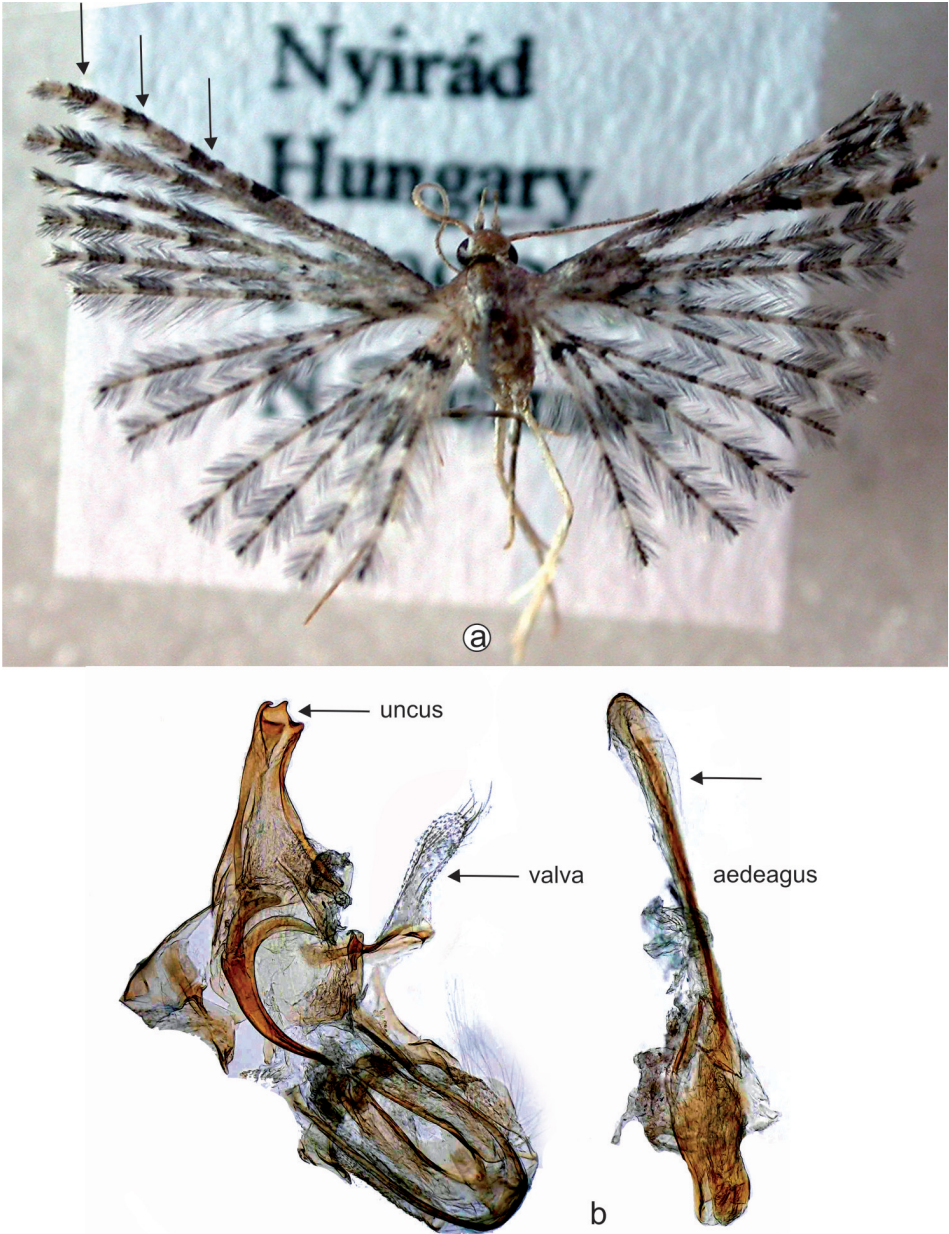


Fig. 6: Adult (a) and male genitalia (b) of *Alucita palodactyla*: Nyirád, Hungary

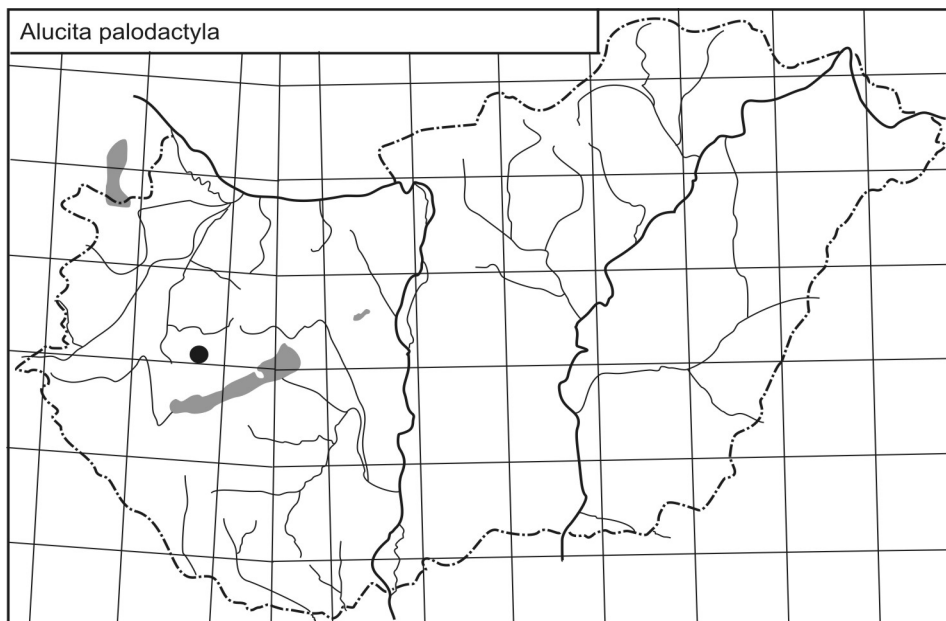


Fig. 7: Grid map of the distribution area of *A. palodactyla* in Hungary

Distribution in Palaearctic: Up to the present it has been recorded from the following countries and regions; Asia Minor, Crete, Balkans (uncertain Albania, Bulgaria, Romania), Ukraine, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Sardinia, Sicily, France, Corsica, Spain, north Africa (GIELIS 2003; www.fauna.eur.org [visited 03.05.2010]) and Iran (ZAGULAJEV 1986).

Remarks: The ecology of the *A. palodactyla* has not been investigated yet in Hungary. There is only one reliable record from Hungary, in September 2009 when P. Davey caught a specimen near Nyírád. The voucher specimen is in the collection of P. Davey in England. This part of West Hungary belongs to the Pannonian biogeographical region so the occurrence of this species there was not a very great surprise and further findings in the area are to be expected. At present, this is the most westward known point of its distribution in Carpathian Basin. Its proposed Hungarian name is szicíliai soktollúmoly.

Alucita desmodactyla Zeller, 1847 (Fig. 8, 10. e)

Biology: Adults fly from the end July till early December, hibernates, and reappears in spring from March to June (GOZMÁNY 1955). Recorded foodplants *Stachys recta* L. and *S. alpina* (in flowers) (GOZMÁNY 1955) and *S. sylvatica* (GIELIS 2003, SCHWARZ 1953).

Habitat: from slope steppes to fresh deciduous woodlands. Altitude from 90 m to 600 m.

The distribution area in Hungary: HP – Kunpszér: A single specimen captured at light (GOZMÁNY & SZABÓKY 1986); LP – Győr-Bácsa (Horváth 1993); TH – Kaposvár (SZABÓKY 1983); Mecsek Mts [Pécs], Villányi-Hills [Szársomlyó, Tenkes-hegy] (BALOGH 1978, FAZEKAS 2002, 2007, SZABÓKY 2000), Simontornya (PILlich 1910); TM – Balatonszepezd, Csákrberény, Csupak, Keszthely, Sümeg, Vászoly, Zirc (Szabóky 1982, 1994), Budapest –Márton-hegy (SZÖCS 1956), Sukoró, Nadap, Lovasberény,

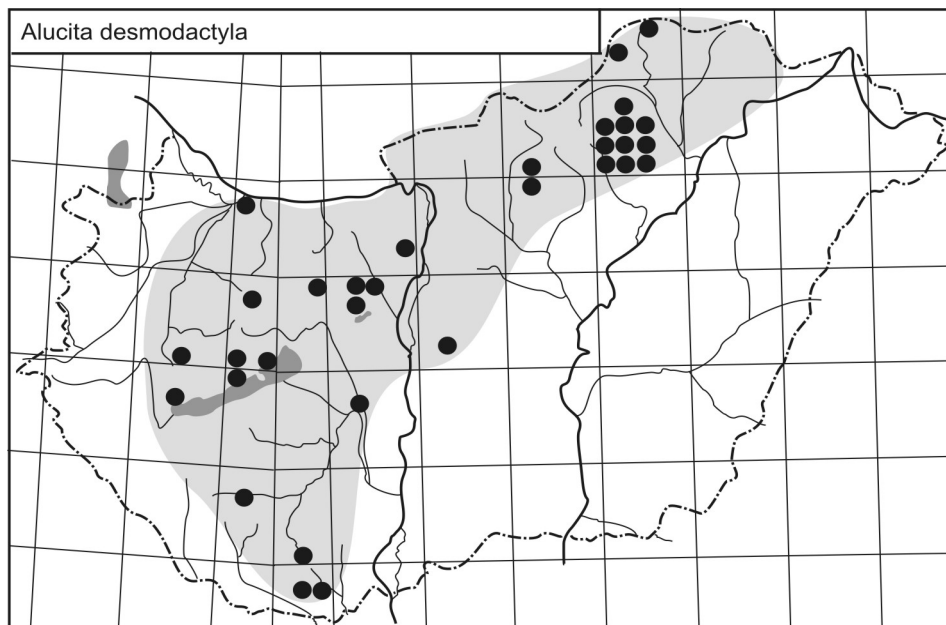


Fig. 8: Grid map of the distribution area of *Alucita desmodactyla* in Hungary

Pázmánd (PETRICH 2001); NM – Bükk Mts [Almár, Vár-hegy, Tihamér] (RESKOVITS 1962), Bükk Mts [Eger, Felsőtárkány, Mónosbél] (ÁCS & SZABÓKY 1993); Mátrafüred (SZABÓKY 1983); Aggtelek Karstland [Aggtelek, Komját] (SZABÓKY 1999). Very local and rare on the Hungarian Plain, but moderately frequent in some localities at medium altitude in the mountains.

Distribution in Palaearctic: Armenia, Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania, Greece, Crete, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, Tunisia.

Remarks: The junior subjective synonym *Orneodes flavidactyla* Toll, 1936 used by GOZMÁNY (1955) should be added.

Pterotopteryx dodecadactyla (Hübner, [1813]) (Fig. 9, 10. f)

Biology: In Hungary, the adult has been found in August. Larvae oligophagous, reported foodplants are *Lonicera caprifolium* L. and *L. xylosteum* L. The larva reddish yellow, the head with a black colour, can be found in June. Pupation in cocoon on the ground (SZŐCS 1977).

Habitat: Xero- to mesophilous; closed thermophilous oak woodlands, thermophilous woodland fringes and turkey oak-sessile oak woodlands. Altitude from 110 m to 900 m.

The distribution area in Hungary: GIELIS (2003) did not report it from Hungary, though the species has been known there for a long time. LP – Győr-Bácsa (Horváth 1993); WB – Szentgotthárd (ABAFI-AIGNER et al. 1896); TM – Budai Mts [= Budai hegység] (GOZMÁNY 1955), Budapest (ABAFI-AIGNER et al. 1896); NM – Bükk Mts [Nagyvisnyó: Bálvány] (BALOGH 1967, ÁCS & SZABÓKY 1993, SZŐCS 1977), Fót (SZABÓKY 1983). Very local and rare in Little Plain and West Hungarian Borderland, sporadically in some habitats of the mountains at medium altitude.

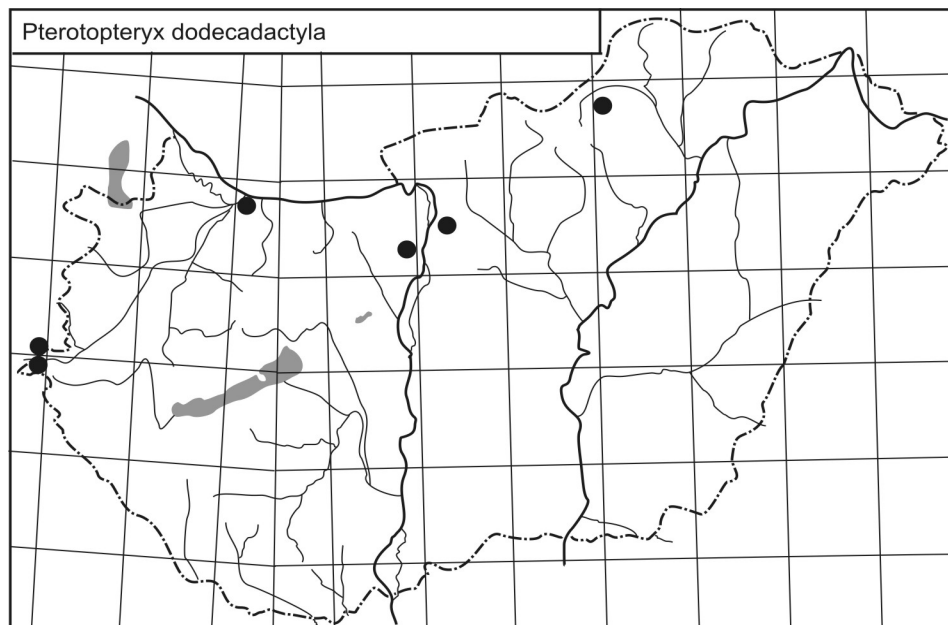


Fig. 9: Grid map of the distribution area of *Pterotopteryx dodecadactyla* in Hungary

Distribution in Palaearctic: Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Bohemia, Poland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy. Outside Palaearctic: in Africotropical region (Gabon).

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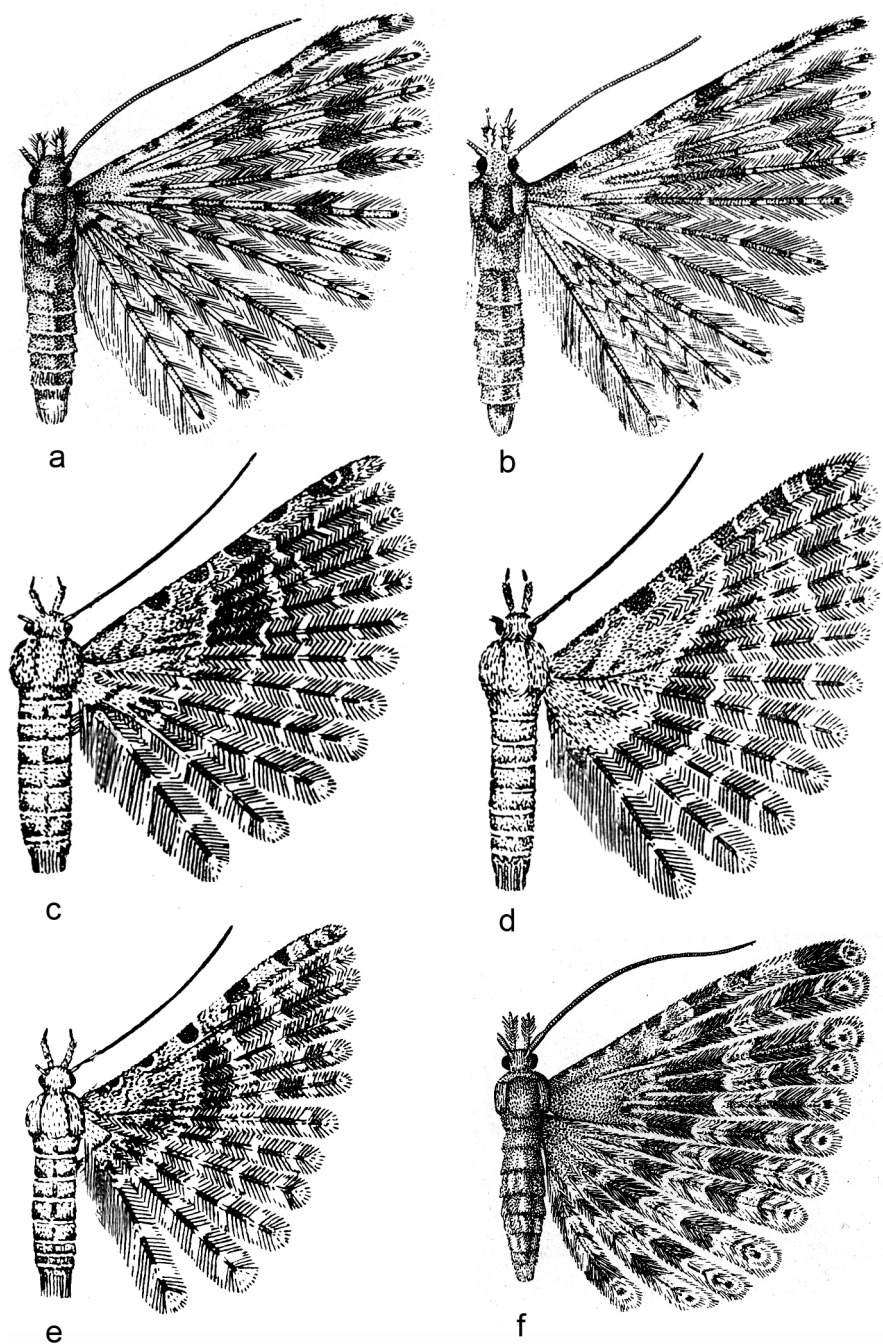


Fig. 10: *Alucita cymatodactyla* (a), *A. hexadactyla* (b), *A. huebneri* (c), *A. grammodactyla* (d), *A. desmodactyla* (e), *Pteropteryx dodecadactyla* (f) (after Buszko 1977, Zagulajev 1986)

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Remark: In the subsequent list, all publications which served to identify the Hungarian alucitids are included. Publications which presented contributions to the Alucitidae fauna of Hungary are also listed.

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