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***AGDISTIS MORINI* SP. N., A NEW PLUME MOTH FROM  
FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA (ITALY) (LEPIDOPTERA, PTEROPHORIDAE)**

***AGDISTIS MORINI* SP. N., NUOVO PTEROPHORIDAE DEL  
FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA (ITALIA) (LEPIDOPTERA, PTEROPHORIDAE)**

**Abstract** - *Agdistis morini* sp. n. is described from Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto regions and compared with the closely related *A. bennetii* (CURTIS, 1833) from the western Mediterranean area. The main characters of the new species are found in the male genitalia and in the adults.

**Key words:** Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae, *Agdistis morini* sp. n., New species, Taxonomy, Italian fauna.

**Riassunto breve** - *Agdistis morini* sp. n. viene descritto per il Friuli-Venezia Giulia e Veneto e confrontato con la specie strettamente affine *A. bennetii* (CURTIS, 1833) dell'area mediterranea occidentale. I principali caratteri della nuova specie si riscontrano nei genitali del maschio e nell'adulto.

**Parole chiave:** *Lepidoptera*, *Pterophoridae*, *Agdistis morini* sp. n., Specie nuova, Tassonomia, Fauna italiana.

## Introduction

The genus *Agdistis* is represented in the Palaearctic region by at least 62 species (ZAGULAJEV & BLUMENTAL, 1994; ARENBERGER, 1995; 1997; 1999; GIELIS, 1998; FAZEKAS, 2000). 23 species are reported from Europe (GIELIS, 1996) and only *A. hulli* GIELIS, 1998 has been described from this area more recently. The Italian fauna of *Agdistis* is quite well known and includes 12 species (PROLA & RACHELI, 1984; ARENBERGER et al., 1995). However, recent research studies encouraged by the Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale, Udine, resulted in several most interesting species records for Italy (HUEMER, 2001) among them two new records of *Agdistis* from the Adriatic coast: *A. intermedia* CARADJA, 1920 and a species new to science which is described in this paper.

## Material

The type-material for this study was collected by Mr. Lucio Morin, Monfalcone and is

partially deposited in the Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale, Udine (MFSN), the Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck (TLMF) and Coll. Morin. Comparative material was examined from the following collections: Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck (TLMF), The Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen (ZMUC), and Zoologische Staatssammlung, München (ZSM).

Material examined:

*Agdistis morini* sp. n.

Holotype: 1 ♂ "I-FRIULI V. GIULIA UL76 GO Grado loc. Bonifica della Vittoria 29-VI-2000 Lucio Morin legit" "GU 00/940 ♂ P. Huemer" (MFSN).

Paratypes: 4 ♂ ♂, same data as holotype (coll. Morin; MFSN; TLMF); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, ditto, but e.l. 8. and 14.9.2000 (larva 28.8.2000) (*Limonium*) (coll. Morin, MFSN); 1 ♂, Gorizia, Grado, e.l. 7.9.1998 (larva 21.8.1998) (*Limonium*), leg. Morin (coll. Morin); 1 ♂, Gorizia, Staranzano, Cona (canale Quarantia), 13.8.2000, leg. Morin (MFSN); 1 ♂, Veneto, Caorle, Brussa, loc. Valle Vecchia, 11.9.1999, leg. Morin (MFSN); including 6 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀, genitalia slides.

*Agdistis bennettii* (CURTIS, 1833)

England: 2 ♀ ♀, Essex, Canvey Island, e.l. 18.6.1986 (*Limonium vulgare*), leg. Huemer (TLMF); 1 ♂, locality not stated (only slide), coll. Banks (NHM); Denmark: 1 ♂, Vllissingen, 15.8.1980; 1 ♀, Sjaelland, Glaeno, 29.7.1941, leg. Wolff; 1 ♀, ditto, but 23.8.1970, leg. Karsholt; 1 ♀, ditto, but 12.8.1972, leg. Pyndt; 1 ♀, ditto, but e.l. (larva 4.5.1982) (*Limonium vulgare*), leg. Schnack; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, ditto, but e.l. 27. and 29.5.1999 (larva 13.5.1999) (*Limonium vulgare*), leg. Hendriksen (ZMUC); France: 1 ♂, Pyrenées-Orientales, Alénia, Etang de St. Nazaire, 4.5.1984, leg. Gibeaux (TLMF); Spain: 1 ♀, Huesca, Penalba, 300 m, 28.6.1986, leg. Skou (ZMUC); 1 ♂, Gerona, Llansa, 14.9.1986, leg. Speckmeier (ZSM); including 4 ♂ ♂, 2 ♀ ♀, genitalia slides.

**Taxonomic part**

*Agdistis morini* sp. n.

*Diagnosis*

Adult (fig. 1): Head, thorax and tegulae light grey-brown; head slightly arched forward; antenna grey-brown, with short cilia; wingspan 21-23 mm; forewing grey-brown with some greyish-white and black mottling, central wedge between the folds paler brown without mottling; fold with four black dots, the outer two oblique and close to each other; a further black subcostal dot at four-fifths; fringes usually with distinct black spots on termen, particularly in tornal area.

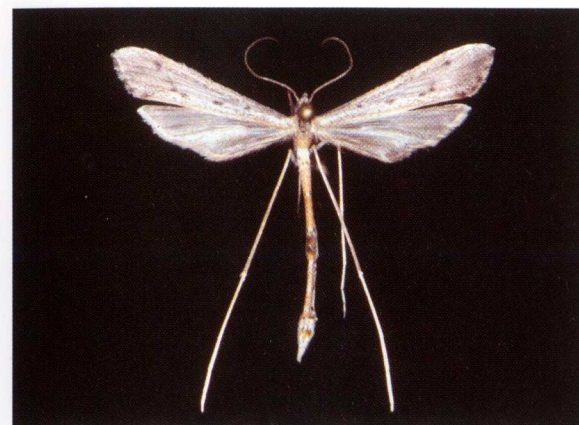


Fig. 1 - *Agdistis morini* sp. n., adult (wingspan 21.0 mm).  
- *Agdistis morini* sp. n., *adulto* (apertura alare 21.0 mm).

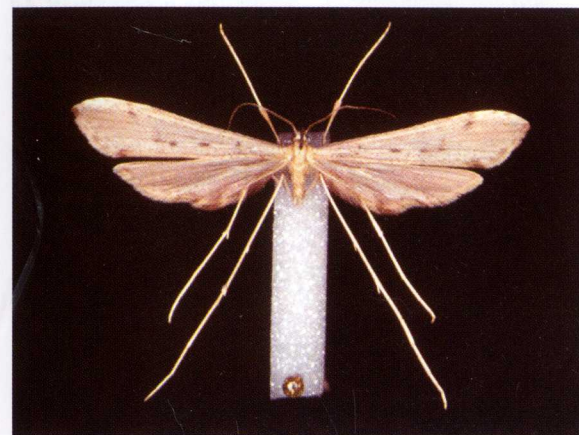


Fig. 2 - *Agdistis bennettii*, adult (wing-span 27.0 mm).  
- *Agdistis bennettii*, *adulto* (apertura alare 27.0 mm).

*A. morini* sp. n. is very similar to other taxa of the genus in general and the *meridionalis*-group in particular. From the most closely related *A. bennettii* it differs by the distinctly smaller wingspan and the more distinct black spots on termen (figs 1-2, table I). Further, though less reliable, differences are found in the slightly darker wings with additional black and white suffusion.

Genitalia ♂ : (figs 3, 5a-c): 8<sup>th</sup> abdominal sternite asymmetrically bilobed; tegumen with two large caudal flaps; uncus symmetrical, bilobed with three strong teeth on each lobe; valva slightly asymmetrical, ventromedially weakly excavated; saccus distinct, moderately small; costa symmetrical, large and strongly sclerotised, dorsomedial part without sclerotised flap, distoventrally with distinct excavation, apical portion bent in a right angle, apex with two distinct lobes; juxta bilobed; aedeagus slender, strongly curved.

