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Faunistic notes on Arctiid moths of the Cape Verde-Islands with description of a new species (Lepidoptera: Erebidae, Arctiinae)

E. AISTLEITNER & K. ČERNÝ

A b s t r a c t : Notes on distribution and phenology of Arctid moths from the Cape Verde-Islands are given. A new species is described as *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp. by ČERNÝ from Ilha do Sal.

K e y w o r d s : Cape Verde Islands, Arctiidae, phaenology, faunistic, description of a new species: *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp.

1. Faunistic notes on the Arctiid moths of Cape Verde by E. AISTLEITNER

Preliminary note

The author lives during the winter-half of the year on the Cape Verde Islands since 1998, in order to enable entomological fieldwork. In the present paper, notes on the distribution and the phenology of the so far two known species of arctiid moths, *Utetheisa pulchella* (LINNAEUS 1758) and *Asota speciosa* (DRURY 1773), are given.

Result

Utetheisa pulchella (LINNAEUS 1758)

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Widespread in tropical regions of the Old World. Regionally known from Santo Antão, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Sal, Boavista, Maio, Fogo; new from Brava (BAEZ & GARCIA 2005)

M a t e r i a l a n d o b s e r v a t i o n s : Santo Antão, Cruzinha da Garça, 10-50m, 9.12.2000; São Vicente, Calhau, Praia Grande, 5m, 13.12.2000; São Nicolau, Pregiça-N, 70-100m, 21.12.2000; Sal, Espargos, 3 km N, 20m, 28.11.2000; Monte Grande-SW, 30m, 30.11.2000 9.1.2001; Pedra Lume-S, Ostküste, 20m, 29.11.2000, 19.12.2000 e.p.; Fogo, Chã das Caldeiras, Casa Forestal, 1650m, 2.2.2013, LF; Brava, Nova Sintra, Mte. Fontainhas, 850m, 20.1.2001; Nossa Senhora do Monte, Lima Doce, 700-800m, 10.1.2002, 19.12.2002 Nova Sintra, Sorno, 50m, 4.12.2002; Nova Sintra, Santana, 490m, all on light trap, 25.12.2003, 30.1.,17.+28.2.2004, 21.10. bis 20.12.2005 numerous, 9.12.2006, 17.+21.1.2007, 15.10.2007, 6.12.2008 5.1.2011, 10.12.2012.

R e m a r k s : The species is a well known migrant. There were abundant precipitations

on all islands in the rainy season of the year 2000 (July to November). A higher population density could be observed on Sal from November to December. Otherwise, only single specimens could be observed, the males can be flushed from the vegetation during day, the females however are attracted by artificial light at night.

Asota speciosa (DRURY 1773)

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Afrotropical. Regionally known only from Santiago, new from Brava (BAEZ & GARCIA 2005).

M a t e r i a l a n d o b s e r v a t i o n s : Brava, Nova Sintra, Santana, 490m, 25.12.2003, 2.,9.,15.+27.11.2004, 21.25.+28.10.2005, 1.+10.10.2007, 23.10.2012, all LF.

R e m a r k s : The flight period of the adult stage of the species seems to be finished at the end of the rainy season (according to the present dates), as only worn specimens came to the artificial light already in October in the majority.

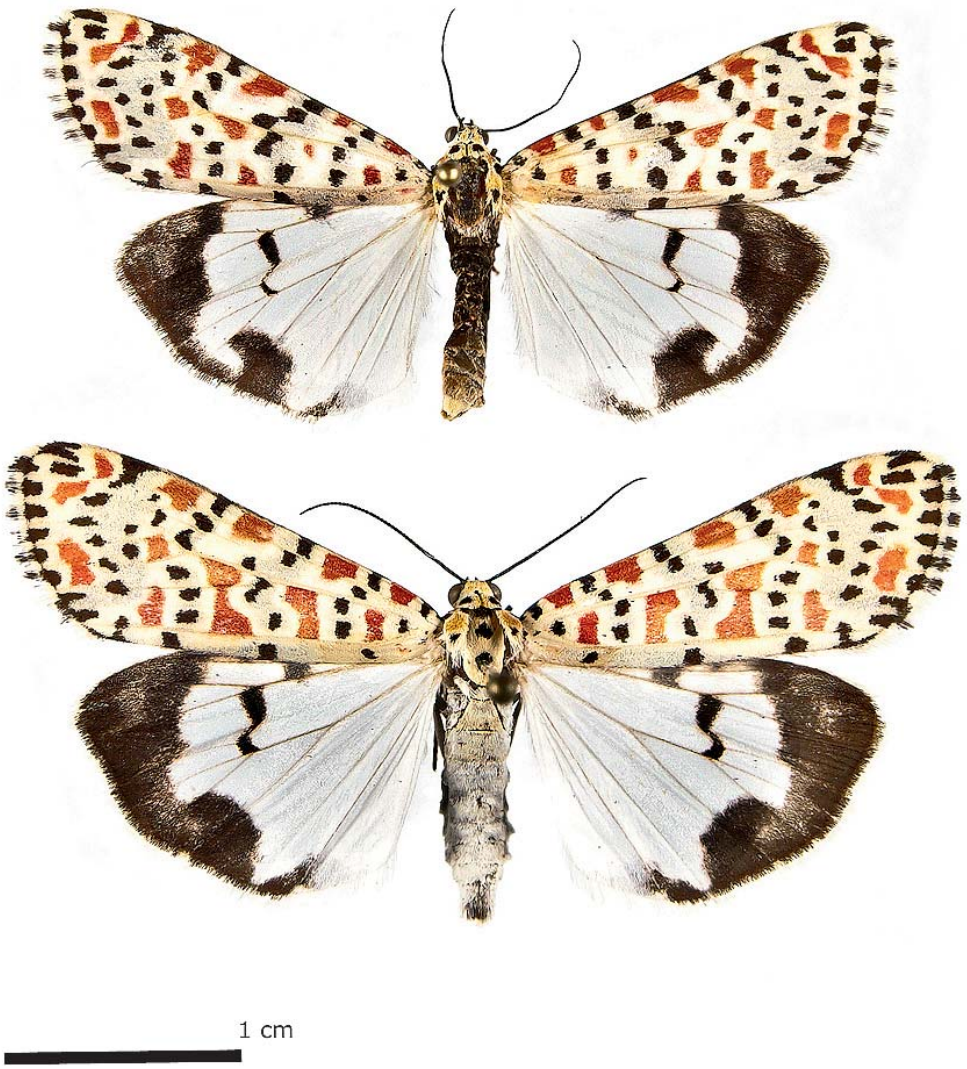

Abb. 1: *Utetheisa pulchella*; ♂ Sal, Mte. Grande-SE, 50m, 9.1.2001, ♀ Brava, Nova Sintra-Santana, 490m, 28.10.2005.

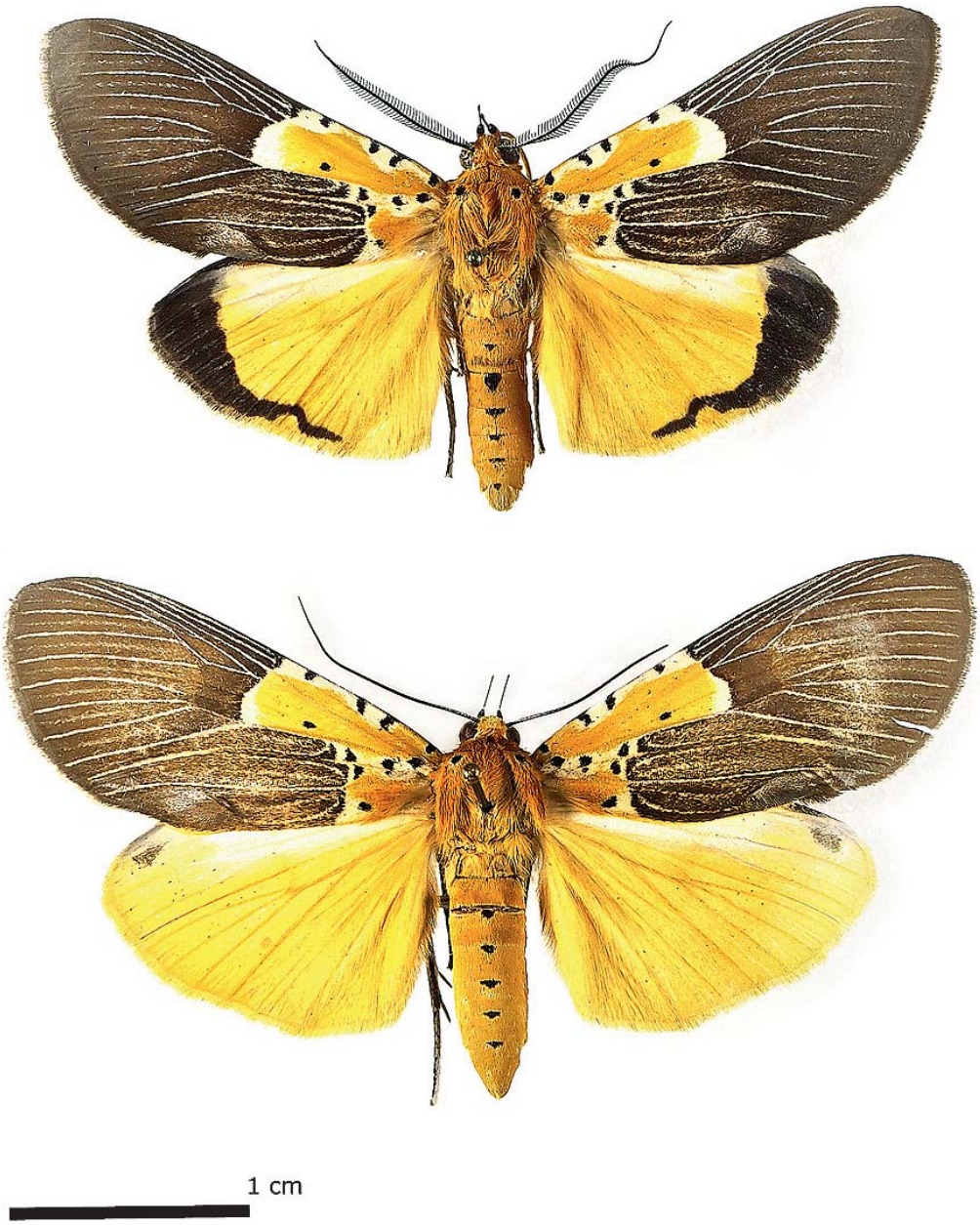

Abb. 2: *Asota speciosa* Brava, Nova Sintra-Santana, 490m, ♂ 25.10.2005, ♀ 5.-10.11.2004.

2. Description of the new species by Karel ČERNÝ

Introduction

In the first decade of January 2001, some larvae were found above and under lava stones in the area of the peak of Monte Grande on Sal, the north-easternmost island of the Cape Verde Archipelago.

These caterpillars were reared with green algae offered on pieces of bark from *Platanus*

and *Malus*. Finally 17 imagines of an unknown species of *Lithosiinae* emerged**.** A short investigation on 19th of November 2009 in this habitat brought some additional material of small caterpillars again, from April to June 2010 imagines were emerging.

Abbreviations

EFMEA ..... Entomologisches Forschungsmuseum Eyjolf Aistleitner, Feldkirch

Eilema aistleitneri ČERNÝ nov.sp.

Material and type deposition: Holotypus: 1♂ Cabo Verde / Sal; Monte Grande, 370m, 11.IV.2001 (ex larva); Allotypus femal like holotypus, 3.V.2001, 9 paratypes male and female emerged between 23.III.-13.VII.2001, e.l., and 16 paratypes male and female emerged between 14.IV.-7.VI.2010 from the same locality like holotypus; all in EFMEA. Paratypes: 1♂ in coll. Cerny, 1♂ in Museum Thomas Witt, now in Bayerische Staatssammlung, München, 1♂ and the microscopical slide in British Museum, London.

Description

Male: Wingspan 25 mm. Head with antennae are greyish brown, eyes black, palpi dark brown; thorax is dorsally greyish brown, ventral part with legs pale brown; the dorsal part of abdomen is basally greyish brown, the terminal part of abdomen and its ventral part are pale brown.

The forewing ground colour is greyish brown. In the medial part there is a transversal black fascia excurved in cell, consisting of four black spots which are conjoined with a line. The angle in cell is prominent.

The hind wings are grey with grey fringes.

The underside is unicoloured pale brown.

Male genitalia: Valvae are short, prominent, the terminal part slightly bent; penis is straight with two terminal thorned processes; vesica slightly scobinated.

Female: Wingspan 20 to 24 mm. The forewings are narrower than in the male, dusted with black.

Female genitalia: Ductus bursae large, strongly sclerotised, bursa copulatrix small, without specific structures.

Variability: At present time we know only reared imagines. It is possible, that the imagines are smaller or larger in the nature.

Similar species: *Lithosia fuscicorpus* HAMPSON from the Gold Coast which has a continuous transversal band whereas it is formed nearly isolated spots in *E. aistleitneri* nov.sp.

Geographical range: Known only from Monte Grande on the island of Sal.

Etymology: The species is dedicated to Eyjolf AISTLEITNER, who discovered the new species.

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Zusammenfassung

Von den Kapverden sind bislang 2 Bärenspinner-Arten gemeldet: *Utetheisa pulchella* (LINNAEUS 1758) und *Asota speciosa* (DRURY 1773). Es werden die faunistischen und phaenologischen Daten wiedergegeben. Von der Ilha do Sal wird eine neue Art beschrieben: *Eilema aistleitneri* ČERNÝ nov.sp. – 12 Abbildungen.

Literature

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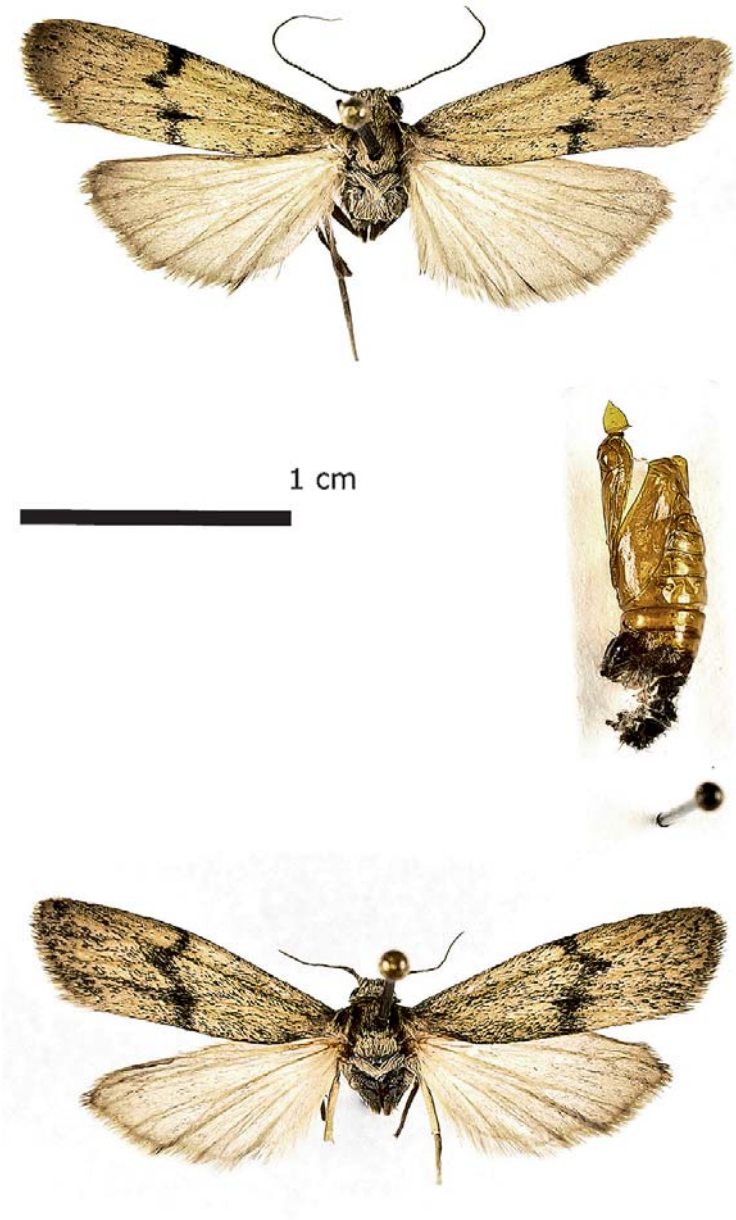

Abb. 3: *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp. Holotypus ♂ und Allotypus ♀, Exuvie. Cabo Verde / Sal, Monte Grande, 370m, 11.IV.2001 (ex larva).

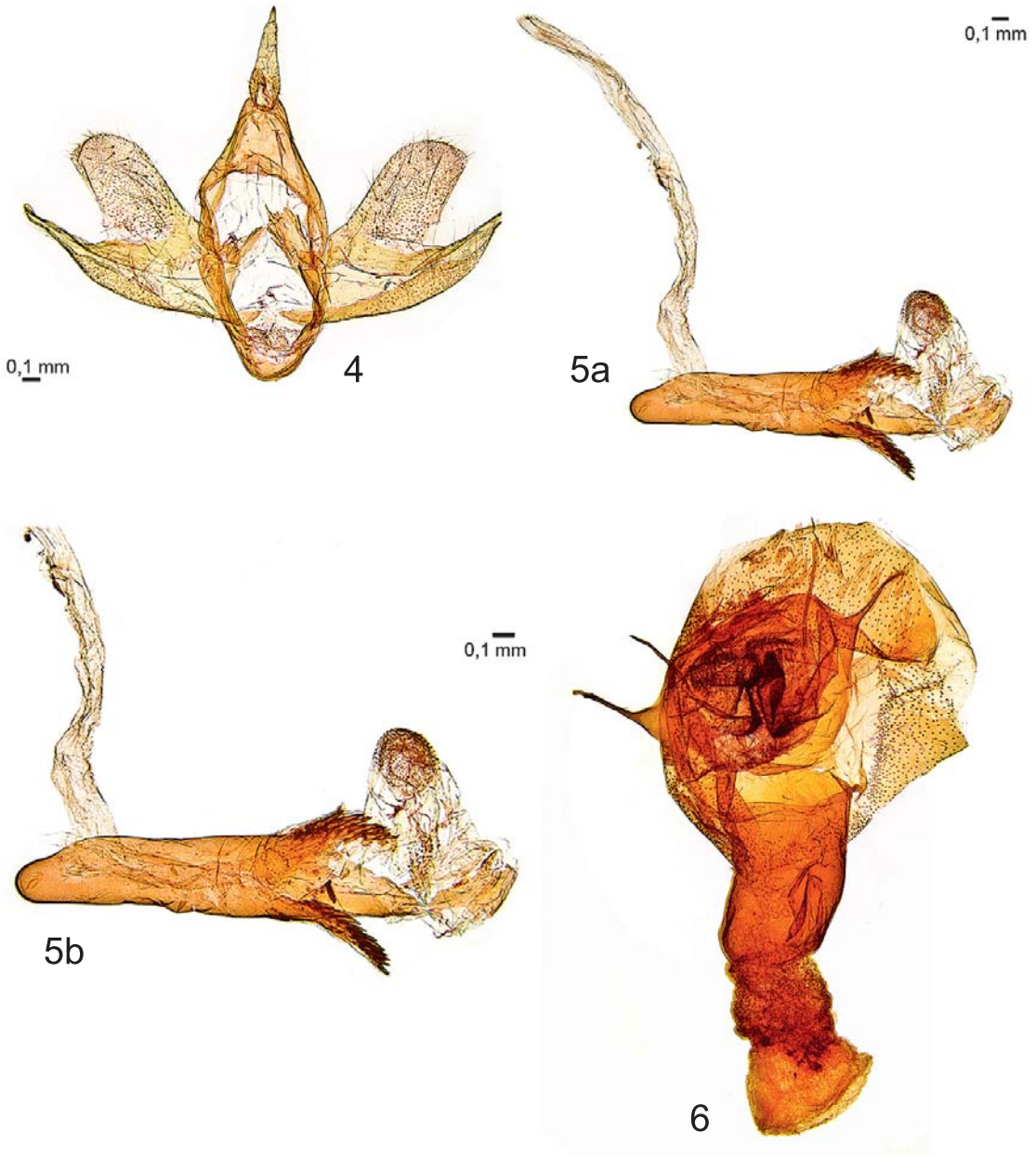

Abb. 4-6: *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp. (**4**) ♂ Genital Holotypus; (**5a**, **5b**) Aedeagus Holotypus; (**6**) ♀ Genital Allotypus.

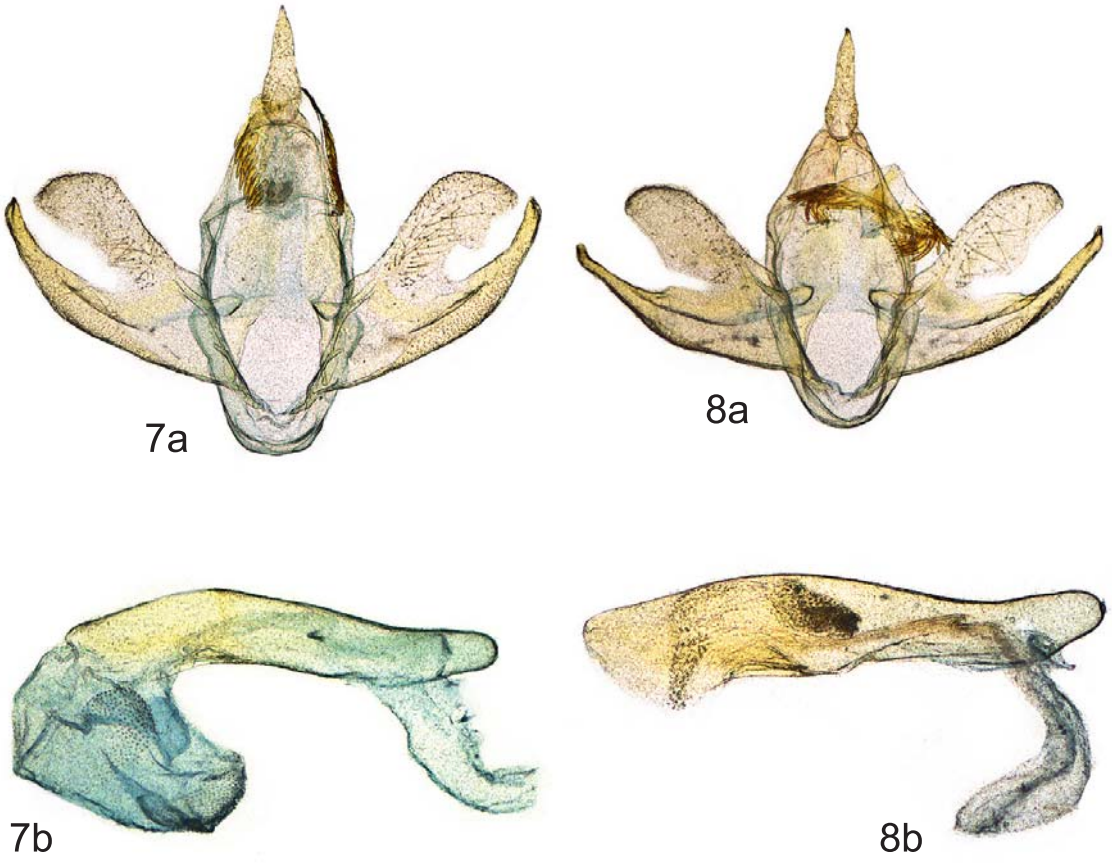

Abb. 7-8 a, b: *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp. (**7a**, **7b**) Paratypus ♂ genital and aedeagus, 20.5.2001, prep. M.R. Honey. (**8a**, **8b**) Paratypus ♂ genital and aedeagus, 23.5.2001, prep. M.R. Honey.

Abb. 9: *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp., Paratypus ♂.

Abb. 10: *Eilema aistleitneri* nov.sp. Paratypus ♀.

Abb. 11: Locus typicus: Cabo Verde, Sal, Monte Grande, 406m, (photo: E. Aistleitner, dec. 1998).

Abb. 12: In the windward side of the peak-region of the Monte Grande the endemic *Euphorbia tuckeyana* STEUD. is growing (photo: E. Aistleitner, jan. 2007).