

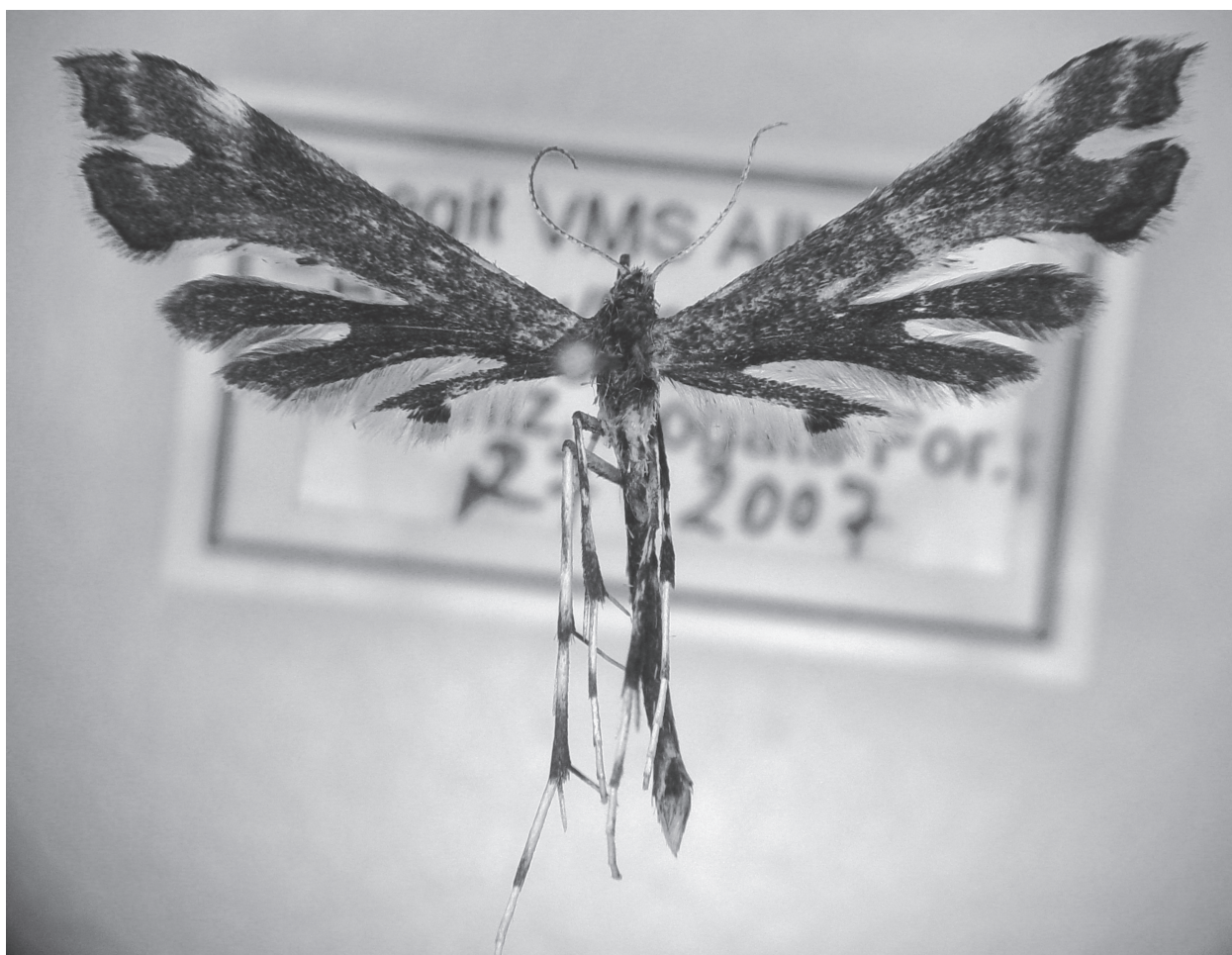
## Confirmation of the presence of *Buszkoiana capnodactylus* (Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae) in Romania

Valeriu ALBU

### Abstract

The presence of a hitherto questionably occurring pterophorid is confirmed from Romania by two fresh specimens caught along a forest brook near the city of Brasov.

**Additional Key Words:** Plume moths, Carpathian fauna, Balkan lepidoptera



*Buszkoiana capnodactylus* (ZELLER, 1841) (Fig. 1) appears to be a shaded forest, wet habitat loving species, according to GIELIS 1996. The larval foodplant is given as *Petasites officinalis* MOENCH (SUTTER 1991) and *Petasites hybridus* (L.) P. G. GAERTN., B. MEY & SCHERB (GIELIS 1996); the two names are synonyms. The larva mines the underground stem of the hostplant (SUTTER 1991). The adult is on the wing during the months of June and July.

Neither SUTTER nor GIELIS list the species as occurring in Romania, but record its presence from the surrounding lands. POPESCU-GORJ does list the species in his "List of Rumanian Microlepidoptera", but assigns it only a possible occurrence status (POPESCU-GORJ 1984). He lists it as *Platyptillia* [sic] *capnodactyla* (ZELLER, 1841). More recently, RÁKOSY in his Catalog of the Lepidoptera of Romania quotes two recordings of the species from the eastern (1970) and western (1987) parts of Roma-

nia, aside from an old record, dating back to 1911 (RÁKOSY et al. 2003).

On May 27, 2007 I had the opportunity to briefly explore a small valley along a brook in the Bogata forest, near Maierus, in Brasov district. The valley, like the surrounding forest, was shady and very wet. The creek had recently retreated in its bed from earlier flooding. All the vegetation was very fresh and lush. In the late afternoon I was able to catch two fresh specimens of *B. capnodactylus* by sweeping the plants on the creek shore with the net. I identified them from the recent revision of the European Pterophoridae (GIELIS 1996). Both are deposited in my personal collection.

Interestingly, *B. capnodactylus* is not known from North America but the host plant has been introduced to this continent. It is recorded from most northern states, east of Illinois and from the state of Washington. It is known as “pestilence wort”.

## LITERATURE

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Valeriu ALBU  
1411 E. Sweetbriar Dr.  
Fresno, CA 93720  
valalbu@comcast.net

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