


## Two new species of the genus *Similipepsis* (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) from Africa Два новых вида рода *Similipepsis* (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) из Африки

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**Abstract.** Two new species of the tribe Similipepsini (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae: Tinthiinae), *Similipepsis gansoni* **sp. nov.** and *S. murzini* **sp. nov.**, are described and illustrated from central Africa (the banks of the Ubangi River) and Guinea, respectively. *Similipepsis gansoni* **sp. nov.** is somewhat similar to *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929), but they differ from each other in the conformation of the transparent areas of the forewing, in the coloration of the abdomen, and in some details of the male genitalia. *Similipepsis murzini* **sp. nov.** is most similar to *S. maromizaensis* Bartsch, 2008, but they can be distinguished from each other by the coloration of the frons, thorax, and abdomen.

**Резюме.** Два новых вида трибы *Similipepsini* (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae: Tinthiinae), *Similipepsis gansoni* **sp. nov.** и *Similipepsis murzini* **sp. nov.** описаны и проиллюстрированы из центральной Африки (с берегов реки Убанги) и Гвинеи, соответственно. *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.** напоминает *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929), но отличается строением прозрачных полей переднего крыла, окраской брюшка и некоторыми деталями гениталий самца. *S. murzini* **sp. nov.** похож на *S. maromizaensis* Bartsch, 2008, но отличается окраской лба, груди и брюшка.

**Key words:** clearwing moths, taxonomy, Afrotropical Region, Sesiidae, Tinthiinae, Similipepsini, new species

**Ключевые слова:** стеклянницы, таксономия, Афротропика, Sesiidae, Tinthiinae, Similipepsini, новые виды

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### Introduction

Over the past slightly more than a dozen years, some groups of clearwing moths from the Afrotropical region have been reviewed (Bartsch, 2010, 2013, 2016a, 2018b; Bartsch & Berg, 2012; Bartsch & Sáfíán, 2022), including the tribe Similipepsini (Bałowski et al., 2008), and some new genera and species have been described from this region (Bartsch, 2015, 2016b, 2017, 2018a; Gorbunov, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2023a, 2023b; Gorbunov &

Gurko, 2017; Agassiz & Kallies, 2018; Bartsch & Sáfíán, 2019; Bartsch, Wanke, 2022; Bartsch & Weitzel, 2022). Nevertheless, the clearwing moth fauna of this very interesting region still remains poorly studied. I anticipate a substantial increase in the Sesiidae fauna of the Afrotropical region as a result of the discovery of new taxa, including representatives of the tribe Similipepsini.

The genus *Similipepsis* Le Cerf, 1911 was erected for *S. violaceus* Le Cerf, 1911, which was described from a single specimen collected in “Con-

go français, environs de Sam-Quito et N'Jolé" [Gabon, Moyen-Ogooué Province, Abanga-Bigne Department, environs of Ndjolé] (Le Cerf, 1911: 305). The holotype of *S. violaceus* was reexamined, and this allowed the separation of the East Asian species into a distinct genus (Gorbunov & Arita, 1995). Recently, I published a history of the synonymy of this genus (Gorbunov, 2022). Recently, I established a new genus *Similisyngaris* Gorbunov, 2023 from Africa, into which one species of the genus *Similipepsis* was transferred (Gorbunov, 2023b). Thus, currently, this genus includes only six species distributed in the Afrotropical Region, including Madagascar (Wang, 1984; Bąkowski et al., 2008; Pühringer & Kallies, 2022).

Thanks to the courtesy of my friend, the coleopterologist Dr Sergey V. Murzin, I had in my hands significant material on clearwing moths from various African countries, most of them from Guinea, where he spent quite a long time, as well as from East and Southeast Asia. In addition, my dear friend, Vladimir A. Ganson, the famous Russian butterfly collector who has since passed away, generously gifted me his collection of Sesiidae, part of which he exchanged with European collectors in the 1960s–90s. Among this material were some specimens belonging to the tribe Similipepsini. After careful examination of both the external morphology and the genitalia, two of them were found to represent the new species, the descriptions of which are given below.

## Material and methods

The descriptions of the specimens were made using a Leica EZ4 stereomicroscope with LED illumination. All images of the type series were taken with a Sony Alpha DSLR A-450 camera equipped with a Minolta 50 mm f/2.8 macro lens. The genitalia were photographed using a Keyence BZ-9000 Bioreveo fluorescence microscope. The processing of all illustrations was finalised using Adobe Photoshop CC 2020 software.

All labels of the holotypes are cited verbatim. The labels with geographical data, data of photos and preparation numbers of the genitalia are printed on white paper, but the type labels of the holotypes are printed on red paper. Each label is separated from other labels by a semicolon (;);

lines in a label are separated by a slash (/). All pictures of specimens are labeled with a number consisting of letters and digits: name of the family, two consecutive digits separated by an n-dash and, a year following the m-dash (e.g. "SESIIDAE pictures Nos 0013-0014–2022"). These letter and digit codes correspond to the numbering system of the figured specimens in the author's archive. Each preparation of the genitalia is stored in a microtube with glycerol pinned under the specimen. The dissected genitalia are equipped with the corresponding number placed in the microtube. This number as a label (e.g., "Genitalia preparation No OG–007-2022") is pinned under the specimen and listed in the author's archive.

The holotypes are deposited in the collection of the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia (COGM).

## Taxonomic account

Order **Lepidoptera**

Family **Sesiidae**

Subfamily **Tinthiinae**

Tribe **Similipepsini**

Genus *Similipepsis* Le Cerf, 1911

*Similipepsis gansoni* sp. nov.

(Figs 1–2, 5–8)

*Holotype*. Male, "Oubanghi", date and collector unknown; "SESIIDAE / Pictures №№ / 0001-0002–2022 / Photo by O. Gorbunov"; "Genitalia examined / by O. Gorbunov / Preparation № / OG–008-2022"; "HOLO-TYPUS ♂ / *Similipepsis gansoni* / O. Gorbunov, 2023 / O. Gorbunov des., 2022" (COGM).

**Description.** *Male* (holotype) (Figs 1–2). Alar expanse 20.6 mm; body length 11.4 mm; forewing length 9.1 mm; antenna length 4.0 mm.

Head. Antenna black with greenish blue sheen, scapus dark grey with greenish gold sheen; frons dark grey with greenish gold sheen; vertex dark brown to black with dark-blue sheen; basal palpomere of labial palpus dark brown to black with dark-blue sheen, middle palpomere dark brown to black with dark-blue sheen dorsolaterally and white ventromedially, apical palpomere completely white; occipital fringe yellowish dorsally and dark brown

to black with dark-blue sheen laterally; neck plate dark brown to black with greenish violet sheen.

Thorax. Patagia dark brown with dark-violet sheen anteriorly and bronze sheen posteriorly; tegula, meso- and metathorax completely dark brown to black with dark-violet sheen; thorax laterally dark brown with bright blue-violet sheen and a small yellowish spot with greenish gold sheen at base of forewing; posteriorly, both metepimeron and metameron covered with smooth scales, dark brown, metepimeron with bright-violet sheen, but metameron with greenish gold sheen, bearing several white scales at base of metacoxae. Fore coxa dark grey brown with greenish violet sheen and several white scales, having golden lustre distally; fore femur entirely dark grey brown with greenish violet sheen; fore tibia entirely dark grey brown with bronze-violet sheen; fore tarsus dark grey brown with bright-blue sheen dorsally. Middle coxa white with golden lustre, bearing several dark grey-brown scales anteriorly; middle femur entirely dark grey brown with greenish violet sheen; middle tibia dark grey brown with bright greenish violet sheen, their basal third externally bearing several white scales with greenish lustre; spurs white with admixture of dark grey-brown scales; middle tarsus dark grey brown with bright-violet sheen, bearing several white scales on two middle tarsomeres externally. Hind coxa white with golden lustre, bearing several dark grey-brown scales both anteriorly and posteriorly; hind femur entirely dark grey brown with bronze-violet sheen; hind tibia dark grey brown with bright blue-violet sheen, bearing several yellowish scales dorsally between both pairs of spurs; spurs white, with admixture of dark grey-brown scales; basal hind tarsomere dark grey brown with bright blue-violet sheen, bearing several yellowish scales dorsally, tarsomeres 2–4 each dark grey brown with bright blue-violet sheen, having a large white spot with golden lustre ventrolaterally, distal tarsomere entirely dark grey brown. Forewing with opaque part dark brown to black with bright blue-violet sheen both dorsally and ventrally, costal margin white with violet lustre ventrally; cilia dark brown with blue-violet sheen; anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as narrow stripe at *CuA*-stem, reaching discal vein; posterior transparent area narrow, somewhat exceeding beyond level of discal vein; external transparent

area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$ . Hindwing transparent; veins, outer margin, opaque part between vein *CuP* and anal margin in distal half, and cilia dark brown with bright-violet sheen both dorsally and ventrally; discal spot absent; outer margin extremely narrow, about 0.5 times as broad as cilia.

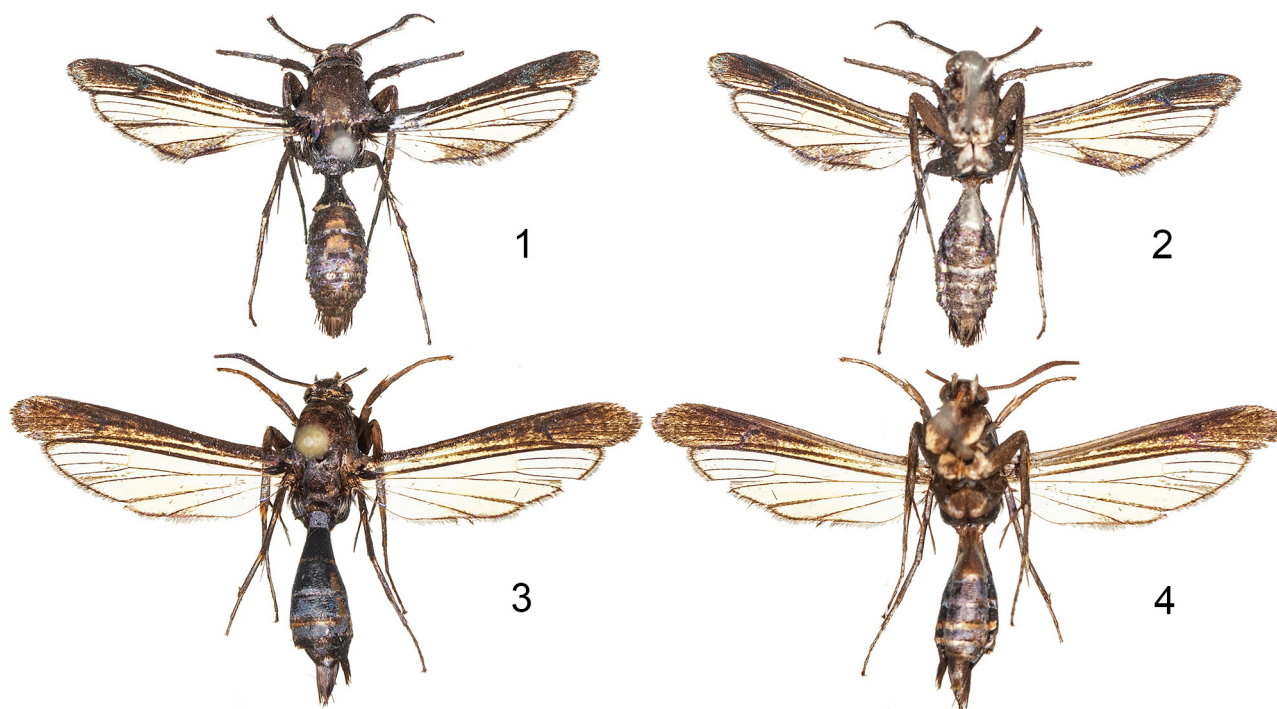
Abdomen wasp-shaped: segment 1 small, acutely narrowed, segments 2–5 gradually broadened, segments 6 and 7 gradually narrowed; dorsally, abdomen dark brown to black with bright-violet sheen; tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally; ventrally, abdomen dark grey-brown with greenish violet sheen; basal sternite white with violet lustre; sternite 4 with narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally; anal tuft small, dark brown to black with blue sheen.

Male genitalia (holotype; genitalia preparation No OG–008–2022; Figs 5–8). Tegumen–uncus complex distinct; tegumen not separated from uncus; uncus bilobed and pointed ventroapically, covered with sparse setae in apical part; tegumen with rather long finger-shaped projection (gnathos) (Fig. 5); valva (Fig. 6) up-turned, slightly broadened and rounded distally, mostly covered with long and short hair-like setae; saccus short, rounded basally; vinculum narrow, about thrice as long as saccus (Fig. 6); aedeagus slightly curved, long, about as long as valva, gradually narrowed distally (Fig. 7), slightly broadened subdistally and ringed subapically by a row of strong but small spines (Fig. 8); vesica without cornuti.

*Female.* Unknown.

*Individual variability.* Unknown.

**Comparison.** By the presence of scales between the vein *CuP* and the anal margin in the distal half of the hindwing, this new species is somewhat similar to *S. aureus* (Gaede, 1929) [type locality: “Cameroon” (Gaede, 1929: 536)], but differs from the latter in the structure of the transparent areas of the forewing (both anterior and posterior transparent areas very narrow and short, not reaching middle of forewing, external transparent area absent in *S. aureus* vs. anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as narrow stripe at *CuA*-stem, reaching discal vein, posterior transparent area narrow, somewhat exceeding beyond level of discal vein, external transparent area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$  in *S. gansoni* sp. nov.; cf. Fig. 1 in this article with fig. 3 in



**Figs 1–4.** *Similipepsis* spp. 1–2, *S. gansoni* sp. nov., male (holotype, alar expanse 20.6 mm; Sesiidae pictures Nos 0001-0002–2022); 3–4, *S. murzini* sp. nov., female (holotype, alar expanse 24.3 mm; Sesiidae pictures Nos 0017-0018–2022). Dorsal view (1, 3) and ventral view (2, 4).

Bąkowski et al., 2008: 789, or with fig. 1 in Gorbunov, 2023b: 307, or with fig. in De Prins & De Prins, 2022), the coloration of abdomen (tergites 1 and 2 black with purple shine, remaining tergites golden yellow, basal sternite white medially, remaining sternites dark brown with golden-yellow scales laterally in *S. aureus* vs. tergites 1 and 2 dark brown to black with bright-violet sheen, tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally, abdomen dark grey brown with greenish violet sheen ventrally, basal sternite white with violet lustre, sternite 4 with a narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally in *S. gansoni* sp. nov.; cf. Figs 1 and 2 in this article with figs 3 and 4 in Bąkowski et al., 2008: 789 or with figs 1 and 2 in Gorbunov, 2023b: 307). In addition, these two species are well distinguished from each other by the shape of the tegumen–uncus complex (sharp, beak-shaped in *S. aureus*), saccus (about as long as vinculum in *S. aureus*), and especially the aedeagus (apically with two narrow beak-shaped processes in *S. aureus*); cf. Figs 5–8 in this article with figs 18a–e in Bąkowski et al. (2008: 794) or with figs 7–11 in Gorbunov (2023b: 308).

From *S. murzini* sp. nov. described below (unfortunately, only from a female, but all currently known species of the tribe Similipepsini with examined both sexes are not sexually dimorphic, and I can compare species of both sexes), *S. gansoni* sp. nov. can be distinguished by the shape and size of the transparent areas of the forewing (anterior transparent area extremely narrow and short, posterior transparent area not reaching level of discal vein, and external transparent area absent in *S. murzini* sp. nov. vs. anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as a narrow stripe at *CuA*-stem, reaching discal vein, posterior transparent area narrow, somewhat exceeding beyond level of discal vein, and external transparent area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$  in *S. gansoni* sp. nov.; cf. Fig. 1 with Fig. 3 in this article), in the presence of brown scales with a bright violet sheen between the vein *CuP* and the anal margin in the distal half of the hindwing in *S. gansoni* sp. nov. (the hindwing is completely transparent in the species compared), and in the coloration of abdomen (tergites 2 and 4 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally, basal

sternite pale yellow, sternites 4 and 5 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally in *S. murzini* **sp. nov.** vs. tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally, basal sternite white with violet lustre, sternite 4 with a narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally in *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**; cf. Figs 1–2 with Figs 3–4 in this article).

From *S. osuni* Bąkowski et Kallies, 2008 [type locality: “West Africa, Nigeria, Osun State, Ile-Ife (University)...” (Bąkowski et al., 2008: 792)], *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.** is separable by the structure of the transparent areas of the forewing (forewing with distinct anterior and posterior transparent areas, and large external transparent area divided into three cells between veins  $M_1$ – $CuA_1$  in *S. osuni* vs. anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as a narrow stripe at  $CuA$ -stem, reaching discal vein, posterior transparent area narrow, somewhat exceeding beyond level of discal vein, external transparent area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$  in *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**; cf. Fig. 1 in this article with fig. 5 in Bąkowski et al., 2008: 789 or with fig. in De Prins & De Prins, 2022), in the presence of brown scales with a bright-violet sheen between the vein  $CuP$  and the anal margin in the distal half of the hindwing in the new species (the hindwing is completely transparent in the species compared), and in the coloration of abdomen (“Dorsal side black with green to violet sheen; tergites 2 and 4 with yellow posterior margins; sternites 2 white, sternite 3 with some white scales at posterior margin, sternites 4 and 5 with white posterior margins, and sternites 6 and 7 with some dirty yellow scales at posterior margins” [Bąkowski et al., 2008: 792] in *S. osuni* vs. dorsally, abdomen dark brown to black with bright-violet sheen, tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally; venter dark grey brown with greenish violet sheen, basal sternite white with violet lustre, and sternite 4 with a narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally in *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**; cf. Figs 1 and 2 in this article with figs 5 and 6 in Bąkowski et al., 2008: 789 or with fig. in De Prins & De Prins, 2022). The male genitalia of these species are virtually identical, but the aedeagus is about 1.5 times as long as the valva in *S. osuni* vs. the aedeagus is about as long as the valva in the new species; cf. Figs 5–8 in this article with figs 19a–e in Bąkowski et al. (2008: 795).

From *S. ekisi* Wang, 1984 [type locality: “...Metet (Adamaoua), Cameroon (Republic of Cameroon)...” (Wang, 1984: 86)], *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.** is distinguishable by the conformation of the wings (forewing with both anterior and posterior transparent areas distinct, external transparent area large, divided into two cells between veins  $M_2$ – $CuA_1$ , hindwing completely transparent in *S. ekisi* vs. forewing with anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as a narrow stripe at  $CuA$ -stem, reaching discal vein, posterior transparent area narrow, slightly exceeding beyond level of discal vein, external transparent area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$ , surface between vein  $CuP$  and anal margin in distal half opaque dark brown with bright-violet sheen in *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**; cf. Fig. 1 in this article with fig. 1 in Wang, 1984: 86) and in the coloration of abdomen (sternite 3 with a narrow white stripe distally in *S. ekisi* vs. tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally, basal sternite white with violet lustre, sternite 4 with a narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally in *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**).

From *S. violaceus* Le Cerf, 1911 [type locality: “Congo français, environs de Sam-Quito et N’Jolé...” (Le Cerf, 1911: 305)], *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.** differs in the conformation of the transparent areas of forewing (anterior and posterior transparent areas small, narrow, not reaching middle of wing, and external transparent area small, divided into two cells between veins  $M_1$  and  $M_3$  [latter somewhat longer] in *S. violaceus* vs. anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as a narrow stripe at  $CuA$ -stem, reaching discal vein, posterior transparent area narrow, somewhat exceeding beyond level of discal vein, external transparent area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$  in *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**; cf. Fig. 1 in this article with fig. 1 in Gorbunov & Arita, 1995: 379), in the presence of brown scales with a bright-violet sheen between the vein  $CuP$  and the anal margin in the distal half of hindwing in the new species (the hindwing completely transparent in the species compared), in the coloration of abdomen (tergite 2 with several yellowish scales laterodistally, tergite 3 with a narrow yellow, having orange hue, distal stripe broadening laterally, tergite 5 with several white scales distally, basal sternite with a narrow yellowish stripe distally, and sternite 3 with a rela-

tively broad pale-yellow to white stripe distally in *S. violaceus* vs. tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally, basal sternite white with violet lustre, sternite 4 with a narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally in *S. gansoni* sp. nov.), and in some minute details in the male genitalia (aedeagus long, about twice as long as valva and without broadening subdistally in the species compared vs. aedeagus long, about as long as valva, slightly broadened subdistally in *S. gansoni* sp. nov.; cf. Figs 5–8 in this article with figs 7a–e in Gorbunov & Arita, 1995: 381).

From all other congeners, this new species clearly differs in the conformation of the transparent areas of the forewing, in the coloration of various parts of the body, and in some details in the male genitalia.

**Etymology.** This new species is named after my friend, the famous butterfly collector, the late Vladimir A. Ganson (1924–2016), who paid great attention to my research on clearwing moths.

**Distribution.** The holotype has a single geographic label with the inscription “Oubanghi”. This means that the specimen was collected near the Ubangi River somewhere in central Africa (the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, or the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine the exact location where this specimen was collected.

**Bionomics and habitat.** Unknown.

### *Similipepsis murzini* sp. nov.

(Figs 3–4, 9)

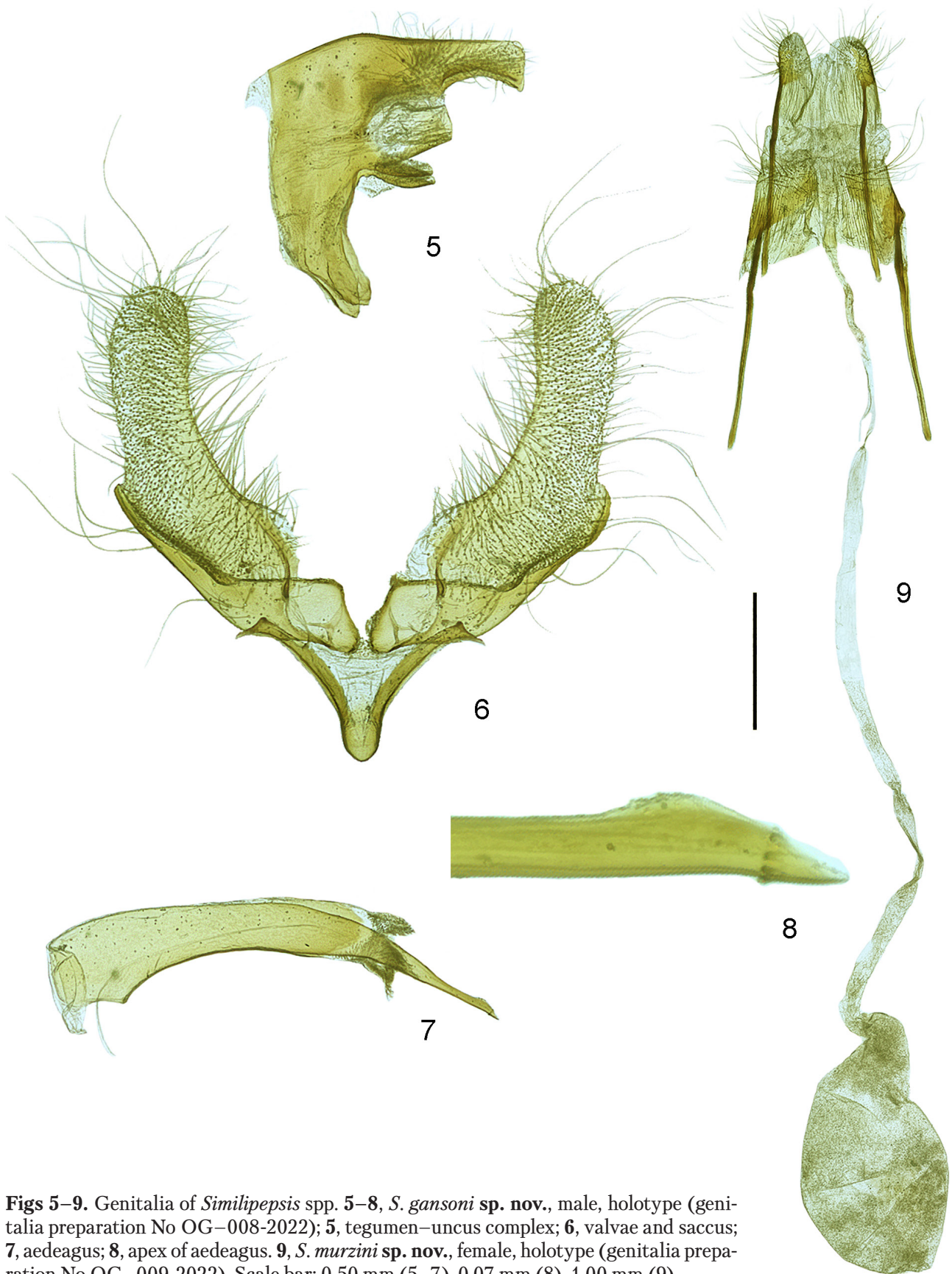
**Holotype.** Female, “Africa, Guinea, / env. of Kindia, Pastoria, / 21.IV.1983 / S.V. Murzin leg.”; “SESIDAE / Pictures №№ / 0017-0018–2022 / Photo by O. Gorbunov”; “Genitalia examined / by O. Gorbunov / Preparation № / OG–009-2022”; “HOLOTYPUS ♀ / *Similipepsis murzini* / O. Gorbunov, 2023 / O. Gorbunov des., 2022” (COGM).

**Description.** *Female* (holotype) (Figs 3–4). Alar expanse 24.3 mm; body length 12.8 mm; forewing length 11.1 mm; antenna length 4.0 mm.

**Head.** Antenna dark brown with dark blue-violet sheen, scapus pale yellow; frons brown with light-violet lustre; vertex dark brown with dark-blue sheen; basal palpomere of labial palpus ventrally covered with broad elongate scales, dark brown with dark-violet sheen, middle palpomere

dark brown with bronze sheen dorsolaterally and white ventromedially, apical palpomere completely white; occipital fridge dark brown, with admixture of yellow scales dorsally; neck plate pale yellow with golden lustre.

**Thorax.** Patagia brown with dark-violet sheen; tegula, meso- and metathorax completely dark brown with dark blue-violet sheen; thorax laterally brown to dark brown with greenish violet sheen, bearing a small yellowish spot medially; posteriorly, both metepimeron and metameron covered with smooth scales with brown-violet sheen and several white scales near base of metacoxae. Fore coxa brown with violet sheen and pale-yellow scales, having golden lustre at exterior margin; fore femur entirely brown with bronze sheen; dorsally, fore tibia brown with bronze-violet sheen, bearing several yellow-orange scales distally, and yellow-orange ventrally; dorsally, fore tarsus brown, bearing several yellowish scales distally at four basal tarsomeres, and yellowish ventrally. Middle coxa pale yellow with several brown scales distally; middle femur entirely brown with bronze sheen; middle tibia brown to dark brown with bronze-violet sheen and two tufts of pointed elongate yellow-orange scales both in basal third externally and dorsodistally; spurs white with admixture of grey-brown scales; dorsally, middle tarsus brown, with several pointed elongate yellow-orange scales at basal tarsomere distally, and yellowish ventrally. Hind coxa pale yellow, with several brown scales medially; hind femur entirely brown with bronze sheen; hind tibia brown to dark brown with bronze-violet sheen, bearing two tufts of pointed elongate yellow-orange scales both at base of middle spurs and distally; spurs white, with admixture of grey-brown scales; dorsally, hind tarsus brown, with several pointed elongate yellow-orange scales on two basal tarsomeres distally, and yellowish ventrally. Forewing with opaque part dark brown to black with bright blue-violet sheen both dorsally and ventrally, anal lobe black with dark-violet sheen dorsally; costal margin pale yellow ventrally; cilia dark brown with blue-violet sheen; anterior transparent area extremely narrow and short; posterior transparent area not reaching level of discal vein; external transparent area absent. Hindwing transparent; veins, outer margin, scales between vein  $CuA_1$  and  $CuA_2$ , and cilia both dor-



**Figs 5–9.** Genitalia of *Similipepsis* spp. **5–8**, *S. gansoni* **sp. nov.**, male, holotype (genitalia preparation No OG–008-2022); **5**, tegumen–uncus complex; **6**, valvae and saccus; **7**, aedeagus; **8**, apex of aedeagus. **9**, *S. murzini* **sp. nov.**, female, holotype (genitalia preparation No OG–009-2022). Scale bar: 0.50 mm (5–7), 0.07 mm (8), 1.00 mm (9).

sally and ventrally dark brown with bright-violet sheen; discal spot absent; outer margin extremely narrow, about 0.3 times as broad as cilia.

Abdomen wasp-shaped: segment 1 small and sharply narrowed, segments 2–4 gradually broadened, segments 5 and 6 gradually narrowed; dorsum dark brown with dark-violet sheen; tergites 2 and 4 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally; ventrally, abdomen brown with bronze-violet sheen; basal sternite pale yellow; sternites 4 and 5 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally; anal tuft small, dark brown with dark-violet sheen.

Female genitalia (holotype, genitalia preparation No OG–009–2022; Fig. 9). Papillae anales short, broad, well-sclerotised basally, with numerous short and long setae; apophysis posterioris about as long as apophysis anterioris; tergite 8 relatively broad, narrowly well-sclerotised in basal half, with numerous long setae at distal margin; ostium bursae at anterior margin of sternite 7, narrow, membranous; antrum short, narrowly sclerotised anteriorly; ductus bursae narrow and very long, about four times as long as apophysis anterioris, with sharp bend at corpus bursae; corpus bursae ovoid, without signum (Fig. 9).

*Male.* Unknown.

*Individual variability.* Unknown.

**Comparison.** In the virtually opaque forewing, this new species is most similar to *S. maromizaensis* Bartsch, 2008 [type locality: “Madagascar Est, Moramanda, Andasibe, vic. Anevoka, Foret Pluviale de Maromiza Nature Reserve...” (Bąkowski et al., 2008: 793)], but differs from the latter in the coloration of the frons (dark grey with violet shine and whitish grey stripe laterally in *S. maromizaensis* vs. brown with light-violet lustre in *S. murzini* sp. nov.), thorax (dorsally, mat black with a small whitish spot at base of forewing and two tufts of whitish hair-like scales on metathorax, thorax with several white scales laterally and anteriorly in the species compared vs. dorsally, thorax completely dark brown with dark blue-violet sheen, and laterally, brown to dark brown with greenish violet sheen and a small middle yellowish spot in *S. murzini* sp. nov.), and abdomen (“tergites 2 and 3 with narrow whitish-yellow caudal margins, tergite 6 with some vitreous, whitish scales at caudal margin and tergite 7 with a broad

whitish-yellow caudal border; sternites 2–3 white, sternite 7 with narrow whitish border” [Bąkowski et al., 2008: 796] in *S. maromizaensis* vs. tergites 2 and 4 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally, basal sternite pale yellow, sternites 4 and 5 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally in the new species; cf. Figs 3–4 in this article with figs 9–10 in Bąkowski et al., 2008: 789 or with fig. in De Prins & De Prins, 2022).

From *S. gansoni* sp. nov., *S. murzini* sp. nov. can be distinguished in the shape and size of the transparent areas of the forewing (anterior transparent area extremely narrow, shaped as a narrow stripe at *CuA*-stem, reaching discal vein, posterior transparent area narrow, slightly exceeding beyond level of discal vein, external transparent area consisting of a single cell between veins  $M_3$ – $CuA_1$  in *S. gansoni* sp. nov. vs. anterior transparent area extremely narrow and short, posterior transparent area not reaching level of discal vein, external transparent area absent in *S. murzini* sp. nov.; cf. Fig. 3 with Fig. 1 in this article), in the completely transparent hindwing (surface between vein *CuP* and anal margin in distal half with brown scales having bright-violet sheen in *S. gansoni* sp. nov.), and in the coloration of abdomen (tergite 2 with a row of pale-yellow scales distally, basal sternite white with violet lustre, sternite 4 with a narrow white to pale-yellow stripe distally in *S. gansoni* sp. nov. vs. tergites 2 and 4 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally, basal sternite pale yellow, sternites 4 and 5 each with a narrow yellow-orange stripe distally in *S. murzini* sp. nov.; cf. Figs 3–4 with Figs 1–2 in this article).

From all other congeners, this new species clearly differs in the conformation of the transparent areas of the forewing and in the coloration of various parts of the body.

**Etymology.** This new species is named in honor of my friend, the famous coleopterist Sergei V. Murzin, whose collection of clearwing moths significantly enriched my knowledge of this most interesting lepidopterous family.

**Distribution.** This species is only known from the type locality in the vicinity of Kindia, the Republic of Guinea.

**Habitat.** The holotype was collected with a butterfly net while sitting on a bush at the edge of a degrading gallery forest in the vicinity of the Pastoria



station (former Institute Pasteur) (10°5'36.5"N, 12°50'21"W, about 388 m a.s.l.).

**Bionomics.** The larval host plant is unknown. The holotype was collected at the end of April.

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