GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE MALE GENITALIA
The male genitalia in the superfamily Noctuoidea, as in other Lepidoptera, consists of the phallus proper and certain periphallic structures of the ninth and tenth abdominal segments. The latter in fact forms a ring-like structure surrounding the centrally placed phallus. The male genital organs are usually withdrawn into the eighth abdominal segment.

The functional periphallic regions comprise the ninth and the tenth abdominal segments. The sclerites of the ninth and anterior portion of the tenth segments usually form a ring-like structure, providing surface for the attachment of the rest of the genital organs. The tergite of the ninth forms a dorsal hood-like or roof-like structure, the tegumen, which may be extended over the base of the uncus in certain cases.

On the caudal margin of the tegumen there is a prominent structure, the uncus, representing the modified tenth tergite which may vary considerably in shape and structure. For example, it may be curved, straight, large, small, reduced or absent, variously branched (bifid, trifid) and spinous etc. From the base of the uncus there are sometimes given out
paired lateral processes, the socii. They are usually soft, rounded and hairy. Ventral to the uncus and socii (if present) is present the gnathos, which is a modification of the tenth sternum and is less variable as compared to the uncus and is seen only in a few species of this superfamily. Between the dorsal uncus and the ventral gnathos runs the posterior part of digestive tract, the tuba analis. The dorsal wall of the tuba analis is distinctly sclerotized to form the scaphium whereas a similar sclerotization on its ventral wall is called the subscaphium.

The ventral half of the ring to which the genitalic organs are attached is called Vinculum, the modified 9th sternite. Midventrally but anteriorly the vinculum bears a blind sac the saccus. The vinculum also carries laterally the two valvae, which act as clasping organs during copulation. The valvae are the modified appendages of the ninth abdominal segment and assume variable forms of some taxonomic significance. These are simple and hairy flattened sacs but in many cases the valvae are complex and heavily sclerotized structures. The mesal surface of each valva, according to Klots (1970) is differentiated into six regions, namely, the costa (dorso-proximal), the sacculus (ventro-proximal), the ampulla (central and medio-dorsal), the harpe (central and medio-ventral), the cucullus (dorso-distal) and the valvula (ventro-distal).
The posterior end of the abdomen is closed by a thin membrane, the 'diaphragma' (modified 9th - 10th intersegmental membrane), extending between tegumen and tuba analis dorsally to the bases of the valvae and vinculum ventrally. This is differentiated into two regions, the dorsal fultura superior and the ventral fultura inferior. The fultura superior is generally sclerotized into a transverse band-like structure, the transtilla. The transtilla actually joins the costal margins of the two valvae but in some cases its middle part is very weakly sclerotized resulting in the so called incomplete transtilla.

The phallus is a long and cylindrical structure variously modified and curved to assume different shapes. However, in some cases it is clearly demarcated into two regions i.e. an anterior phallobase and a posterior aedeagus. The distal end of the aedeagus is more or less membranous and is invaginated into the basal part to form a distinct endophallic region, usually referred to as vesica by Lepidopterists. The terminal end of vesica receives the ductus ejaculatorius which usually enters the phallus at the junction of the phallobase and aedeagus. The surface of the vesica is beset with short setae, tubercles or with large and strongly sclerotized spines collectively called as cornuti. The structure of the cornuti is useful for the discrimination of the species. The fultura inferior is similarly sclerotized...
into a sheild-shaped structure, the juxta which serves as a support for the phallus.

The phallus in some cases demarcated into two regions, proximally the phallobase and distally the aedeagus. The distal end of aedeagus is invaginated to form a duct called vesica. The vesica meets the ductus ejaculatoris which enters penis at the phallobase. The vesica, which is ever-sible carries spines or scobinate patches termed as cornuti, which may or may not be present. The vesica enters the bursa copulatrix of the female during copulation.