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SOME SPECIES OF HETEROCERA NEW
TO THE LEPIDOPTEROFAUNA OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS
(*Lepidoptera* *Depressariidae*, *Gelechiidae*, *Pterophoridae*,
Pyralidae, *Crambidae*, *Erebiidae*)

SUMMARY

Twelve species from the Heterocera, namely, *Depressaria erinaceella* Staudinger, 1870, *Aristotelia staticella* (Millière, 1876), *Syncopacma sangiella* (Stainton, 1863), *Stangeia siceliota* (Zeller, 1847), *Moitrelia thymiella* (Zeller, 1846), *Pempelia palumbella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), *Pempelia zelicella* (Oberthür, 1888), *Epischnia albella* Amsel, 1954, *Ancylosis biflexella* (Lederer, 1855), *Ancylosis nubeculella* (Ragonot, 1887), *Hyperlais argillacealis* (Zeller, 1847) and *Odice pergrata* (Rambur, 1858) are here reported new for the Lepidoptero fauna of the Maltese Islands.

Key words: Insecta, checklist, new records

RIASSUNTO

Alcune specie di Heterocera nuove per la lepidottero fauna delle isole maltesi (Lepidoptera Depressariidae, Gelechiidae, Pterophoridae, Pyralidae, Crambidae, Erebiidae). Sono riportate dodici specie di Heterocera nuove per la lepidottero fauna delle Isole Maltesi: *Depressaria erinaceella* Staudinger, 1870, *Aristotelia staticella* (Millière, 1876), *Syncopacma sangiella* (Stainton, 1863), *Stangeia siceliota* (Zeller, 1847), *Moitrelia thymiella* (Zeller, 1846), *Pempelia palumbella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), *Pempelia zelicella* (Oberthür, 1888), *Epischnia albella* Amsel, 1954, *Ancylosis biflexella* (Lederer, 1855), *Ancylosis nubeculella* (Ragonot, 1887), *Hyperlais argillacealis* (Zeller, 1847) e *Odice pergrata* (Rambur, 1858).

Parole chiave: Insecta, checklist, nuove segnalazioni

INTRODUCTION

Whilst going over an old box with undetermined or partly determined specimens of moths, I decided to have another try at giving a name to this

material. With the help of lepidoptera fora on the internet, and especially Lepidoptera specialists with whom I have a healthy correspondence, I managed to determine correctly ten species from the microlepidoptera. Two other species, an Erebid species and a Pyralid, were not part of this group but were collected a few months ago. Unless otherwise stated, all the material is in the author's collection.

RESULTS

Depressaria erinaceella Staudinger, 1870 (Depressariidae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [♂], MALTA, Mtahleb, 26.X.2007, P. Sammut leg. This specimen has been determined by P. Buchner. In Europe it is known from the Iberian Peninsula, France, Sicily, Sardinia and Macedonia. It is also known from North Africa. The larva of this species feeds on *Cynara cardunculus* a widely cultivated crop in Malta.

Aristotelia staticella (Millière, 1876) (Gelechiidae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [2 specimens, sex undetermined] MALTA, Dingli Cliffs, 3.VI.2005. Collected by the author at light and determined by O. Karsholt. Known to occur in the Iberian Peninsula (VIVES MORENO, 2019), France, Sardinia and the Ukraine (BIDZILYA & BUDASHKIN, 2015). The larva is known to feed on *Lomonium cordatum*, although in Malta the larval host plant is not known. In Malta no less than six species from this genus are known to occur, mostly on the exposed areas of cliff facing the sea.

Syncopacma sangiella (Stainton, 1863) (Gelechiidae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♀], MALTA, Gozo, Marsalforn, Qbajjar, 8.VI.2006, collected by the author at light and determined by O. Karsholt. The species is known to inhabit various European countries and around the Mediterranean. Larval host plants include *Lotus corniculatus*, a species very common on the Maltese islands.

Stangeia siceliota (Zeller, 1847) (Pterophoridae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♀], MALTA, Rabat, 5.V.2014, P. Sammut leg. In Europe the species is known from the Mediterranean area and from Southern Switzerland. Elsewhere it has been recorded from Asia Minor to Iraq (GIELIS, 1996).

Larvae are known to feed *Cistus monspeliensis* and *Ononis natrix* (GIELIS, 1996). Both plants are known to occur on the Maltese Islands.

Moitrelia thymiella (Zeller, 1846) (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♀], MALTA, Buskett, 24.VI.2003, collected at light by the author and determined by F. Slamka; [1♀] Siggiewi, Ghar Lapsi, 10.VII.1999, P. Sammut leg, J. Asselbergs det; [1♀] Rabat, 16.V.1999, P. Sammut leg, J. Asselbergs det. This species seems to be widely distributed in Malta, mostly on garigue areas. Known from mainland Italy, Sicily (type locality) and European Turkey. Larval host plant not known.

Pempelia palumbella ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♂], MALTA, Dwejra, l/o Rabat, 29.IX.2007, P. Sammut leg; F. Slamka det. The species is widely distributed all over Europe. The larva of this species is known to feed on *Erica*, *Thymus*, *Calluna*, *Cistus* and others. Most of these genera are widely distributed over the Maltese Islands.

Pempelia zelicella (Oberthur, 1888) (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♀], MALTA, Rabat, 10.VII.2019, P. Sammut leg; F. Slamka det. Known only from Biskra in Algeria (type locality) and Cyprus. Larval host plant: unknown.

Epischnia albella Amsel, 1954 (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED [1♀], MALTA, Dwejra, l/o Rabat, 25.IV.2007, P. Sammut leg; J. Asselbergs det. In Europe, it is known from the Canary Islands. Elsewhere it occurs in Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Palestine (VIVES-MORENO & GASTÓN, 2017). Larval host plant: unknown.

Ancylosis biflexella (Lederer, 1855) (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED [1♂], MALTA, Rabat, P. Sammut leg, 29.III.2009; [♂] Mellie a, il-Kortin, 13.VIII.2008, H. Borg-Barthet leg.; F. Slamka det. Besides Lebanon (type locality), this species is known also from Israel, Algeria, Tunisia, the Canary Islands and Cyprus. Larval host plant: unknown.

Ancylosis nubeculella (Ragonot, 1887) (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. [1♂], MALTA, Rabat, 3.XI.2016, P. Sammut leg.; J. Asselbergs det. Known from Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, S. Caucasus, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Egypt. In Europe known only from the Canary Island (ASSELBERGS, 2007). Larval host plant: unknown.

Hyperlais argillacealis (Zeller, 1847) (Crambidae: Cybalomiinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♂], MALTA, Comino Is., 3.V.2007, J.J.Borg leg.; F. Slamka det. In Europe it is known from Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Crete and Sicily (SCALERCIO *et al.*, 2016). Larval host plant: unknown.

Odice pergrata (Rambur, 1858) (Erebidae Boletobiinae)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: [1♂], MALTA, Rabat, 10.VI.2019, P. Sammut leg. et det.

In Europe the species is known only from the Iberian Peninsula. Known also from NW Africa (FIBIGER *et al.* 2010). Larval host plant: unknown.

Acknowledgements. I would like to acknowledge the help of the various Lepidoptera specialists listed in the text above who have helped me with the determination of the species and to Mr. John J. Borg of Rabat (Malta) who has donated me the specimen of *Hyperlais argillacealis*.

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