

PAPERS READ.

STRAY NOTES ON LEPIDOPTERA.

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No. 1.

Under the above title I propose from time to time to offer remarks on new and little-known species that may come under my observation. In this, the first of these notices, I describe a singularly fine species of Hawk-moth which I have failed to find in Boisduval's Monograph or Butler's Catalogue of the group although it has been known to Sydney collectors for many years. In deciding upon its affinities I have had the friendly advice of that experienced lepidopterist Mr. Henry Edwards, with whose name I have ventured to associate it.

SPHINGIDÆ.

MACROSILA EDWARDSI, sp.n.

Head and thorax rich umber-brown, mottled with ochreous-yellow and brown scales, the latter with a narrow transverse band anteriorly and a cream-yellow patch on each side at the base ; the patagia and hind margin edged with dark umber-brown ; palpi long, erect, upstanding, white beneath, umber-brown above and for the apical half below. Antennæ light umber-brown above, paler beneath. Forewing rich umber-brown, with greyish-white markings, a few light brown and ochreous scales mingled with the dark scales ; a bright cream-yellow patch at the base extending more than half way towards the costa, which is mottled near the base with greyish-white scales ; three irregular transverse bands composed of greyish-white scales before middle ; two similar bands near apex extending from costa towards hind-margin, the first narrow and interrupted about the middle of wing, second broad,

upturned, reaching the hind-margin about the middle, the apical area, hinder angle, and outer half of the inner margin mottled with greyish-white; cilia of hind-margin white, barred on the veins with broad patches of pale umber-brown. Hindwing pale salmon-red, the base cream-yellow, suffused with smoky-brown above, two abbreviated oblique narrow brown bars extending from abdominal margin towards middle, a triangular white patch at hinder angle, beyond which is a small rich brown patch edged posteriorly with bluish scales; veins 4-7 ornamented beyond the middle with narrow streaks of white scales, relieved in the middle by black. Cilia of hind-margin from apical angle to hinder angle white, barred on the veins with umber-brown. Abdomen pale umber-brown, mottled with whitish and ochreous scales, the base and patches of scales at the sides cream-yellow. Beneath the wings are light brown, the bases whitish, with a sinuous transverse marking on both fore and hindwing near the apex extending from costa to inner margin; hinder part of thorax and abdomen white. Legs brown; inner side of anterior and intermediate femora white; posterior femora wholly white except a light brown patch externally at base and a similar patch internally behind the spurs. Expanse of wings, 102 mm.; length of body, 40 mm.

Brisbane, Queensland; Lower Hunter River, New South Wales.

This rare species, perhaps the most beautiful of the Australian Hawk-moths, has existed for many years in more than one local collection, but as far as I am aware has never yet received a name. A single specimen obtained at Ash Island, Hunter River, in 1860 or thereabouts, by the late Mr. A. W. Scott is now in the collection of the Australian Museum, and I have seen other specimens from the same district and from Brisbane, the latter in the possession of Mr. F. G. T. Smith.

Macrosila Edwardsi is allied to *M. casuarinæ*, Fabr., the most abundant of our Sphingidæ, but is entirely different in colour and marking, and has the palpi longer, more erect, and outstanding.



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