

# ON SOME TYPES OF LEPIDOPTERA IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, MELBOURNE.

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In a little work published in 1869 under the title *Characters of Undescribed Lepidoptera Heterocera*, by the late Mr. Francis Walker, F.L.S., are the descriptions of a number of species which it is desirable to identify as far as possible. The work commences with 102 species described as new from the collection of T. Norris, Esq. Of these, eight are stated to have been taken at Moreton Bay, but a large proportion of the species are without locality, so that it is quite possible that there are more Australian types among them. Whether these types are still in existence I do not know, but I believe I have seen some of them in the British Museum. I have made an attempt to identify the Australian forms from the descriptions.

- 12. *Lithosia remota* is a synonym of *Lexis nitens*, Wlk.
- 24. *Turriga invasa* is probably a variety of *Olene mendosa*, Hb.
- 26. *Entometa adusta* is a synonym of *Pinara metaphaea*, Wlk.
- 32. *Doratijera congrua* is a synonym of *Susica alphaea*, Fab.
- 33. *Mecytha antiqua* I have not been able to identify.
- 37. *Antheraea insignis* is a synonym of *Copaxa janetta*, White.
- 81. *Piana lignificta*, and 88. *Hypopyra fusifascia*, I am not able to identify.

The next instalment is headed "The following fifty-one species inhabit Australia, and are in the National Museum at Melbourne." Through the courtesy of Mr. J. A. Kershaw, the Curator, I have had the opportunity of carefully examining these types. They are kept in a drawer by themselves, and have been well cared for, but bear the traces of previous ill-usage. Mr. Kershaw informs me that they were placed in this drawer from a box, which contained a label saying that they were "received in bad condition," probably from damage in the post. Beneath each type is an M.S. name, probably in Walker's handwriting, and these names correspond to the descriptions in print. Two of the types are missing, but one of these I have identified to my own satisfaction from the description. The remaining forty-nine are all Victorian species, or at least forty-seven of them, which I have determined. Of the two remaining, one is an obscure species of the genus *Anthela*, which will probably be identified some day; the other is represented by thorax and hind wings only, and all that can be said of it is that it is a species of *Agriophara*. Forty-eight of the species are now accounted for, and of these forty-eight names, thirty-one are



synonyms, most of the species having been previously named by Walker himself. There remain seventeen names which must, I think, be adopted. Most of these have been since described by other authors, who had not the opportunity of examining Walker's types. Of the four generic names proposed, none are valid.

I should not have been able to obtain results so complete if it had not been for the generous assistance of Mr. J. A. Kershaw and Mr. Geo. Lyell. The latter went through the types before my arrival, and left me a box of examples from his own collection, which he had compared and identified with them. The former supplemented these with other examples from the Museum collection. Having satisfied myself of the correctness of the identifications, and in some instances this required special care, I was able to study the loaned examples at leisure after my return to Brisbane.

My detailed results are as follow :—

1. *Eterusia auroatra*.—The type is unfortunately missing. The description applies to some species of unusually distinct appearance, and should be recognisable, but at present I cannot identify it with any Australian species known to me.
2. *Eutane partita*.—This is a good species correctly identified by Sir Geo. Hampson, and described as *Thallarcha partita* (Cat. Lep. Phal. II., p. 503). There are several allied and very similar species; this one is best distinguished by its deep orange-ochreous ground-colour, and by a fuscous spot in cilia of hind wings below middle. It appears to be very rare in collections; a specimen lent me from the National Museum bears the locality label Spring Vale, Victoria. I have taken a series, which I refer to this species, at Glen Innes, New South Wales, in October.
3. *Castula binotata* = *Castulo doubledayi*, Newm. = *Chuaca rubricosta*, Wlk. The type of *binotata* is a variety occasionally met with in which the termen and cilia of hind wings are ochreous, with a narrow dark-fuscous subterminal line.
4. *Orgyia semifusca* is, I think, a good species, but cannot be referred to this genus. The ♂ agrees structurally with *Porthesia*, but Mr. Kershaw has lent me a ♀ from the National Museum which strikingly resembles a ♀ *Orgyia*. I propose to make this species the type of a new genus *Ocybola*, and both genus and species will be described below.
5. *Teara luctipennis* is a synonym of *Oenosanda boisduvalii*, Newm. ♂. This species is sexually dimorphic.



6. *Entometa despecta*.—The type is a ♂ and should be easily recognised; the hind wings are blackish and much darker than the fore wings, which are brown, densely irrorated with orange-ochreous. I have this species under the name of *Entometa obscura*, Wlk. Walker's types of this genus require to be elucidated, the ♀♀ of many of the species are very similar, and unfortunately some of the types are ♀.
7. *Entometa ignobilis* belongs to the *Psychidae*, and has been correctly identified by Meyrick and Lower (Trans. Roy. Soc. S.A., 1897, p. 197), who redescribe it as *Clania ignobilis*.
8. *Ptilomacra antiqua* is a synonym of *Ptilomacra senex*, Wlk.
9. *Opsirrhina punctilinea* is a synonym of *Pinara divisa*, Wlk. ♀.
10. *Tolyte subnotata* is a good species so far as I know. It is closely allied to *trimacula*, Wlk., which Mr. Lyell tells me is the ♀ of *Crexa punctigera*, Wlk. I suspect that my *Crexa hyaloëssa* may be the ♂ of *subnotata*.
11. *Hepialus fasciculatus* is a synonym of *Oncoptera intricata*, Wlk.
12. *Leucania adjuncta* is a synonym of *Cirphis ciliata*, Wlk. It is not the same as the species described by Hampson as *Cirphis adjuncta* (Cat. Lep. Phal. V., p. 489), for which I propose a new name below.
13. *Mamestra confundens* is a synonym of *Dasygaster hollandiæ*, Gn.
14. *Agrotis costalis* is a synonym of *Caradrina tortisigna*, Wlk.
15. *Agrotis transversa* = *Euxoa porphyricollis*, Gn.
16. *Anchoscelis bicolor* = *Agrotis compta*, Wlk.
17. *Orthosia deprivata* is a slightly darker example of *Agrotis compta*, Wlk.
18. *Euplexia mamestroides* has been described by me as *Prometopus poliophracta*. (Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia, 1908, p. 57.) Hampson identifies this species as *Omphaletis exundans*, Gn. (Cat. Lep. Phal. VIII., p. 377.) It is very similar in markings to *Caradrina instipata*, Wlk.
19. *Xylina saxatilis* = *Ectopatria subrufescens*, Wlk.
20. *Pantydia canescens* = *Pantydia diemeni*, Gn.
21. *Samea distractalis* = *Nacoleia rhoeonalis*, Wlk. The type is mangled, but recognisable.
22. *Ebulea gavisalis* has been since described as *Mecyna rhodochrysa*, Meyr.
23. *Stenopteryx corticalis* = *Nomophila noctuella*, Schiff.
24. *Idiodes inornata* = *Idiodes apicata*, Gn.
25. *Azelina inordinata* = *Mnesampela privata*, Gn.



26. *Azelina biplaga* is a good species, which has been re-described as *Metrocampa glaucias*, Meyr.
27. *Passa pygaeroides* = *Smyriodes aplectaria*, Gn.
28. *Monoctenia decora* is a pale variety of *Monoctenia vinaria*, Gn.
29. *Arnissa simplex* belongs to the genus *Anthela* (*Lymantriadae*). The type is an obscure ♀, and I was not able to identify the species.
30. *Tephrosia scitiferata* = *Selidosema mundifera*, Wlk.
31. *Tephrosia fulgurigera* = *Selidosema excursaria*, Gn., a variety with thickened dark-fuscous lines on wings.
32. *Asthena vexata* = *Euchoeca rubropunctaria*, Wlk.
33. *Macaria comptata* = *Diastictis australiaria*, Gn.
34. *Larentia approximata* has been since described as *Phrissogonus pyretodes*, Meyr. The type is a ♂ and rather darker than usual.
35. *Larentia gelidata* (Walker's M.S. label reads "*Larentia algidata*") is a ♀ example of *Xanthorhoe subidaria*, Gn.
36. *Oesymna stipataria* is a ♀ example of *Microdes squamulata*, Gn.
37. *Eupithecia destructata* has been since described as *Phrissogonus catastreptes*, Meyr. In this instance only I had no example to compare with the type, but I am confident of my identification.
38. *Acrobasis subcultella* = *Epipaschia nauplialis*, Wlk.
39. *Hypata moderatella* = *Chlenias arietaria*, Gn.
40. *Dichelia vicariana* = *Cacæcia postvittana*, Wlk.
41. *Sperchia intractana* is, I believe, the species described by Meyrick under the name of *Capua obfuscatana*.
42. *Tinea annosella* has been since described as *Xysmatodona saxosa*, Meyr.
43. *Tinea arctiella* has been since described as *Lepidoscia comochora*, Meyr.
44. *Tinea nivibractella* is a good species of the genus *Monopis*, Hb. I give a full description below.
45. *Tinea intritella* has been redescribed as *Phloeopola exarcha*, Meyr.
46. *Hyponomeuta* ? *viduata* is a good species which may be provisionally referred to the genus *Xylorycta*. Besides the type there are three examples in the National Museum, all imperfect and without palpi. (Localities: Melbourne and Kewell, Vic.)
47. *Chimabacche saxipennella*. This is, I have no doubt, a species of the genus *Agriophara*, but as the type has now no fore wings, palpi, antennæ, nor abdomen, it would be rash to identify it more particularly.



48. *Gelechia improbella* is a species of the genus *Eulechria*. I have not been able to identify it with any of Mr. Meyrick's descriptions, but it is a species difficult to recognise. I describe it below.
49. *Gelechia gemmipunctella* is represented by a single fore wing only, but this is sufficient to identify it with *Glyphipteryx atristiella*, Zel. I consider *G. chrysolithella*, Meyr., to be the same species, the colour of the hind wings being variable in different localities.
50. *Oecophora impletella*. The type is missing, but from the description I have no hesitation in identifying this with *Philobota herodiella*, Feld. As vol. ii. of the *Reise Novara* was published in 1874, Walker's name has the priority.
51. *Cryptolechia scitipunctella* is a synonym of *Hoplitica repandula*, Zel.

In the National Museum is the Curtis collection of British insects. Among them I examined *Arcturus sparshallii*, Curt., which is undoubtedly the same as *Trichetra stibosma*, Butl. Mr. Lyell informs me that he considers this to be a varietal form of *Trichetra melanosoma*, Wlk. How this Australian insect came to be ascribed to Great Britain must remain a mystery.

In the Museum Library I had an opportunity of examining Donovan's *Insects of New Holland*. His *Tinea strigatella* (Plate 40) is the same as *Philobota chrysopotama*, Meyr. The only discrepancy is that the ground-colour is figured purple, but comparison with the description shows that this is an error of the colourist.

#### GENUS OCYBOLA, NOV.

ὠκυβολος, quick-darting.

Head and thorax densely long-haired. Tongue minute. Palpi moderate, porrect, hairy. Antennæ in ♂ with two rows of long pectinations to apex, in ♀ shortly bipectinate. Legs hairy, posterior tibiæ with two pairs of spurs. Abdomen without crests. Fore wings with 2 from middle, 3 from before angle, 4 and 5 from angle, 6 connate with 7, 8, 9, 10, which are stalked, 10 arising beyond 7, no areole. Hind wings with 5 absent, 6 and 7 stalked. Wings in ♀ rudimentary.

#### OCYBOLA SEMIFUSCA, Wlk.

♂, 28 mm. Head, thorax, and palpi dark-fuscous mixed with whitish-ochreous hairs. Antennæ whitish-ochreous, pectinations and inner surface dark-fuscous. Abdomen dark-fuscous, tuft and underside orange-ochreous. Legs ochreous mixed with dark-fuscous. Fore wings triangular, costa gently arched, apex obtusely rounded, termen bowed oblique; orange-ochreous rather densely suffused



with dark-fuscous, which forms an ill-defined basal patch, dentate postmedian line, and terminal line, cilia dark-fuscous, apices ochreous interrupted with fuscous. Hind wings with termen rounded; orange-ochreous with scanty dark-fuscous irroration towards termen, cilia concolorous.

♀. Head, thorax, palpi, antennæ, legs, and abdominal tuft whitish; wings represented by narrow linear-lanceolate whitish rudiments, sufficiently long to reach middle of abdomen.

Victoria: Williamstown, near Melbourne; Ocean Grange, near Sale.

*CIRPHIS DASYCNEMA*, SP. NOV.

δασυκνήμος, with hairy shins.

♂ ♀, 36–40 mm. Head, thorax, and palpi grey-whitish, with scanty blackish irroration, external surface of palpi in ♂ purplish tinged. Antennæ grey, towards base grey-whitish; ciliations in ♂  $\frac{1}{2}$ , bristles 1. Abdomen grey-whitish. Legs whitish, with sparse blackish irroration; anterior femora in ♂ densely hairy and anterior tibiæ with immense fuscous-purple tufts. Fore wings elongate-triangular, costa nearly straight; apex rounded, termen scarcely oblique, rounded beneath; grey-whitish with sparse blackish irroration, and sometimes some patchy purple-grey suffusion; a white postmedian discal dot immediately preceded by a blackish dot; a row of dark-fuscous dots at  $\frac{5}{6}$  parallel to termen; a series of minute terminal dots; cilia grey-whitish, tinged with purplish, with a fuscous subapical line. Hind wings with termen wavy; whitish, towards termen suffused with fuscous; cilia whitish, purplish-tinged except towards tornus, with a fuscous median line.

Very similar to *Cirphis ciliata*, Wlk., from which it may be readily distinguished (1) by the ♂ fore legs, (2) by the postmedian line on fore wings being single, not double.

Type in coll., Turner.

Queensland: Brisbane, in February and May. Three specimens.

*MONOPIS NIVIBRACTELLA*, Wlk.

♂ ♀, 15–22 mm. Head snow-white. Palpi dark-fuscous, apex of terminal joint white. Antennæ dark-fuscous; in ♂ simple. Thorax fuscous with a large white anterior spot. Abdomen ochreous. Legs fuscous; posterior pair ochreous. Fore wings elongate, slightly dilated posteriorly, costa strongly arched, apex rounded, termen obliquely rounded; dark-fuscous, markings snow-white; a large quadrilateral spot on dorsum near base, rather broadly separate from base and costa; an irregularly triangular spot on costa beyond middle; smaller spots with very irregular outlines on costa before apex, mid-termen, and tornus, the first two tending to confluence; all tending to be broken up by dark-fuscous



or ochreous-fuscous irroration; cilia dark-fuscous, on mid-termen and tornus white. Hind wings lanceolate; grey; cilia pale-ochreous, at apex grey.

This species is very similar to *Monopis meliorella*, Wlk., with which it has been confused. For some years I have recognised its distinctness, and am glad to take this opportunity of describing it. The best point of distinction is the broad dark-fuscous band between dorsal white spot and base and costa. Both species are common and widely distributed.

North Queensland: Stannary Hills. Queensland: Brisbane, Toowoomba, Warwick, Bunya Mountains. New South Wales: Glen Innes, Kiama, Jenolan. Victoria: Melbourne.

*M. meliorella* I have from North Queensland: Cardwell, Mareeba, Kuranda, Stannary Hills, Townsville. Queensland: Brisbane, Rosewood, Stradbroke Island, Dalby, Warwick, Adavale.

EULECRIA IMPROBELLA, Wlk.

♂, 18 mm. Head ochreous-fuscous. Palpi fuscous, inner aspect of second joint mostly ochreous-whitish. Antennæ and thorax fuscous. Abdomen ochreous-fuscous, tuft whitish-ochreous. Legs fuscous; posterior pair whitish-ochreous. Fore wings elongate, not dilated, costa gently arched, apex rounded, termen obliquely rounded; whitish-ochreous densely irrorated with dark-fuscous; a round dark-fuscous discal dot at  $\frac{1}{3}$ , a second beneath it on fold, and a third in disc at  $\frac{2}{3}$ ; veins towards termen outlined with fuscous; cilia whitish-ochreous, basal half irrorated with fuscous. Hind wings ovate-lanceolate; grey-whitish, slightly darker towards termen; cilia grey-whitish.

Victoria: Melbourne (National Museum collection).



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