

emerged, which made specific identification impossible. The parasitoids inside the four other *A. ryphea* pupae also failed to pupate.

Although a sample size of 15 larvae is not large enough for definitive conclusions, the rate of parasitism reported here on fifth instar larvae of *A. ryphea* (53%) is as high as the rate of egg parasitism by trichogrammatid wasps (55%) and the rate of mortality in first instar larvae (49%, on average). Larval behaviors, such as leaf rolling and nocturnal feeding in fourth and fifth instar larvae, may decrease the incidence of parasitism, but it would appear that mortality due to parasitism during fifth larval instar may affect the population size of *A. ryphea* just as much as that during the earlier life history stages.

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#### VARTIAN COLLECTION TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, VIENNA

**Additional key words:** Noctuidae, type specimens, palaearctic.

The Museum of Natural History in Vienna recently received the Eva Vartian collection of western and southern Palaearctic Macrolepidoptera. The value of the collection is extraordinary, and its strength results from the extensive entomological field work conducted by Mrs. Vartian in the Near and Middle East. The collection contains all groups of Macrolepidoptera, and is dominated by Noctuidae and Geometridae. The breadth of the collection is unusual: among the Noctuidae, for example, are more than 2,500 type specimens, with rich representation in the subfamilies Noctuinae, Hadeninae, Cuculliinae and Amphipyryinae. Overall, the collection is estimated to contain a total of 4,400 type specimens, some hundreds of which are holotypes.

About 95 percent of the 140,000 specimens are set and housed in more than 900 drawers. The entire collection is presented in its own room, the "Vartian Hall," situated on the top floor of the building. A large part of the material was collected by Mrs. Vartian during dozens of expeditions to Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In combination with the rich western Palaearctic material already extant in the main collection, and the collections of Rudolf Pinker (Northern Africa, Turkey), the Museum of Natural History in Vienna now has one of the largest Macrolepidoptera and especially Noctuidae collections for the Near and Middle East in the world.



Lepidopterists who expect to be in Austria may visit the Museum of Natural History in Vienna and examine the collection by prior arrangement. Please contact Dr. Martin Lödl at the address below (Tel. 0043 (1) 521 77 ext. 318).

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