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LEPIDOPTERA RECORDED FROM ARAPAWA ISLAND, MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS, DURING 1963-64

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INTRODUCTION

THE AUTHORS are not aware of any previous list of Lepidoptera for this locality, although Hudson (1928) refers to specimens taken on Stephens Island and at Picton. The authors have taken considerable numbers of specimens on this island during 1963 and the early part of 1964 while on routine visits to the whaling station on the south side. About fifteen visits were made in the period, and a collection of Lepidoptera was made on most of these. In view of the dearth of distribution data on the New Zealand lepidoptera, it was felt that the publication of our results would be useful.

Arapawa Island, which is about sixteen miles long and three miles wide, lies in the southern Marlborough Sounds, flanked by the Queen Charlotte Sound to the north and Tory Channel to the south. These two stretches of water meet beyond the western extremity of the island. The island itself takes the form of a fish hook, with its shank lying along a southwest-northeast axis and the base of the hook facing the narrows of Cook Strait.

The island is divided into a number of farms, with a few bush reserves. Sheep predominate, with a number of cattle. Although annual burning-off is carried out on most, if not all, the farms, manuka scrub (*Leptospermum scoparium*), tauhinu (*Cassinia* sp.), and bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) cover much of the island. As well as in the small reserves little patches of bush cling above the high-water mark, in gullies, and along watercourses. The central chain or chains of hills rise to 1,500 ft. Some bush still survives on parts of the crest of the hills behind Deep Bay and in one or two other places.

Lepidoptera were collected mainly on the southern edge of the island, with one or two excursions on to the central hills. Beating of scrub and light trapping were used to secure specimens. It is pointed out that this list of species must be far from complete, although the authors feel that, even at this stage, it is fairly representative of the different families.

RESULTS

Species *Adults recorded*

Family DANAIDAE

1. *Danaida plexippus* February and March

NOTES: Odd specimens have been noted by local people from time to time. These are presumably insects which have flown over from the mainland.

Family NYMPHALIDAE

2. *Pyraemis itea* February and March
3. *Pyraemis gonerilla* January to March

NOTES: Neither of these species is thought to be as common now as in past years.

Family LYCAENIDAE

4. *Chrysophanus salustius* February
5. *Lycaena (Zizera) labradus* February to March

Family PIERIDAE

6. *Pieris rapae* December to May

Family HYPSIDAE

7. *Nyctemera annulata* November, February, March, May

Family NOCTUIDAE

8. *Agrotis ypsilon* February, March
9. *Heliothis armigera* February
10. *Leucania semivittata* February
11. *Melanchra insignis* October, December, February
12. *Melanchra homoscia* May
13. *Melanchra mutans* November, February, May
14. *Melanchra scutata* August, September, May
15. *Melanchra ustistriga* February, April
16. *Persectania atristriga* March
17. *Persectania composita* September, March
18. *Rhapsa scotialis* January

Family GEOMETRIDAE

19. *Asthenes subpurpureata* July, August
20. *Chloroclystis semialbata* May
21. *Declana floccosa* November, March
22. *Dichromodes sphaeriata* February
23. *Epirrhanthis alectoraria* November
24. *Hydriomena arida* July
25. *Leptomeris rubraria* February, March
26. *Phrissogonus laticostatus* May
27. *Phrissogonus testulatus* May
28. *Selidosema dejectaria* October
29. *Selidosema fenerata* February
30. *Selidosema rudiata* February
31. *Selidosema suavis* October, March
32. *Sestra flexata* October, January to March
33. *Xanthorhoe cinerearia* March to May
34. *Xanthorhoe rosearia* October, February, May to July

Species *Adults recorded*

Family CRAMBIDAE

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|-----|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 35. | <i>Crambus angustipennis</i> | February |
| 36. | <i>Crambus flexuosellus</i> | January to March, May |
| 37. | <i>Crambus ramosellus</i> | February, March, May |
| 38. | <i>Crambus vittellus</i> | February, May |
| 39. | <i>Diptychophora elaina</i> | February |

Family PHYCITIDAE

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|-----|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 40. | <i>Crocodyphora cinigerella</i> | February |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------|

Family PYRAUSTIDAE

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|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 41. | <i>Mecyna flavidalis</i> | January to April |
| 42. | <i>Scoparia halopis</i> | May |
| 43. | <i>Scoparia octophora</i> | February, May |
| 44. | <i>Scoparia submarginalis</i> | February, March |
| 45. | <i>Musotima nitidalis</i> | November, December |

NOTE: The authors feel that the list of Pyraustids would have been substantially increased if sufficient time had been available to regularly light trap in the surviving areas of bush.

Family TORTRICIDAE

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|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 46. | <i>Ctenopseutis obliquana</i> | December to May |
| 47. | <i>Laspeyresia pomonella</i> | February |
| 48. | <i>Pyrgotis semiferana</i> | September to February |
| 49. | <i>Tortrix excessana</i> | December to March |
| 50. | <i>Tortrix leucaniana</i> | February |
| 51. | <i>Tortrix postvittana</i> | February |

NOTE: *L. pomonella* is associated with the wild pear trees which are to be found in various parts of the island. *Tortrix postvittana* occurred in one noticeable peak in early February. Odd specimens were not recorded at other times of the year, as in Wellington during the same period (Gaskin, 1964).

Family OECOPHORIDAE

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|-----|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 52. | <i>Coleophora spissiformis</i> | December to February |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------------------|

NOTE: Numbers of this species coming to light did not indicate that it occurred in any quantity in the southern part of the island.

Family GLYPHIPTERYGIDAE

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|-----|--------------------------------------|------|
| 53. | <i>Choreutis bjerkanarella</i> | July |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------|

Family LYONETIDAE

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|-----|-------------------------------|------------|
| 54. | <i>Opogona omoscofa</i> | Year round |
|-----|-------------------------------|------------|

Family TINEIDAE

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 55. | <i>Monopsis ethelella</i> | February, March |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------|

Family HEPIALIDAE

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------|
| 56. | <i>Oxycanus umbraculatus</i> | February |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------|

NOTES: —

- (1) *O. umbraculatus* was first discovered on the island by Mr Cawthorn. In following days numerous specimens were found around various lights. All of these specimens lacked any trace of white in the black discal streak, and were clouded with orange-brown on the forewings. The Arapawa Island form of this species is quite distinct from any of the forms of the male of this species found in Wellington and

- the surrounding district and described elsewhere by the senior author (Gaskin, in preparation).
- (2) Representative specimens taken during this collecting programme have been retained in the author's collection.

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