COMMENTS

Although its native food plants were probably *Acacia* species, recorded host plants of the painted apple moth include *Geranium, Pelargonium, Rosa*, broad beans, "lawns", *Cotoneaster*, passion fruit, *Pinus radiata*, apple, apricot, willows, banana, *Dahlia*, cape weed *(Arctotheca)* and numerous others (E. D. Edwards pers. comm.). The female is flightless and larvae do not disperse from a silken thread in the wind. Dispersal occurs by means of a wandering 1st instar larva which probably accounts for the wide host tolerance. These 2 characteristics might enable this species to become temporarily established in New Zealand, but the means of dispersal would render an infestation easily isolated and controlled.

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Lepidoptera light-trapped at Owaka, South Otago

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ABSTRACT

A list of 124 Lepidoptera taxa collected by light-trapping at Owaka is presented. The light-trap operated during November and December 1983, and between September 1984 and June 1985.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, light-trap, Owaka, South Otago, New Zealand.

INTRODUCTION

Owaka (46°27′S, 169°39′E) is situated in lowland pasture, 4 km from the coast, and is one of the most southerly pastural farming areas in New Zealand. No list of Lepidoptera of this area has previously been reported.

METHOD

A light-trap was fitted with an unballasted mercury vapour bulb connected to a ballasted circuit and situated adjacent to pasture. It was operated from 7 November 1983 to 11 December 1983 (12 samplings) and from 15 September 1984 to 7 June 1985 (45 samplings).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 lists the 124 taxa and the months in which they were collected. Typically for this type of light-trap the noctuids and hepialids comprise the bulk of the individuals trapped. Unlike the smaller moths which tend to be deflected by the bright bulb, noctuids and hepialids are strong fliers and so outnumber the others. The 51 species of Noctuidae collected are generally typical of southern developed pasture areas but there is a strong forest element that reflects the presence of forest remnants within a few km of the trap site. Many of the genus *Meterana* fit this category, as they have arboreal larvae.

Several species such as *Aletia cuneata, Ichneutica ceraunias* and *Tmetolophota alopa* were represented by only 1 individual each. These species are characteristic of upland grassland areas that are not fully developed. Such areas occur within 5 km of Owaka. An interesting find was the speckled footman moth, *Utethesia pulchelloides vaga*, a cosmopolitan species; this is the southern-most record in New Zealand.

Patrick & Archibald (in prep.) do not accept that *Wiseana mimica* (Philpott) and *W. jocosa* (Meyrick) are synonyms for *W. cervinata* (Walker) Dumbleton (1966) and so the old names have been retained in this list.

Five noctuids which have been taken at lights elsewhere in the Catlins area were not found in the Owaka light-trap. *Physetica caerula* (Guenée) and *Meyricci pictula* (White) were taken on Tautuku Beach, *Graphania fenwicki* (Philpott) and *G. beata* (Howes) were taken in forest at Tautuku, and *Aletia* n.sp. was taken at Ajax Bog, during October 1985.

Table 1: The Lepidoptera collected from a light trap at Owaka, South Otago.

HEPIALIDAE
Aoraian n.sp. nr *aurimaculata* (Philpott) Jan-Feb
Cladoxycanus minos (Hudson) May
Wiseana copularis (Meyrick) Nov-Jan
W. jocosa (Meyrick) Oct-Nov
W. mimica (Philpott) early Oct
W. umbraculata (Guenée) Oct-Jan

TORTRICIDAE
Epiphyas postvittana (Walker) 1 spec. mid Nov, 1 spec. May
Planotortrix conditana (Walker) 1 spec. late Nov
P. notophaea (Turner) 1 spec. May
P. excessana (Walker) Nov, May
Pyrgotis plagiatana (Walker) 1 spec. Nov
Strepsicrates ejectana (Walker) 1 spec. Jun

PSYCHIDAE
Liothula omnivora 1 spec. Oct

TINEIDAE
Archyala terranea (Butler) 1 spec. mid Nov

CARPOSINIDAE
Heterocrossa adreptella (Walker) Nov

OECOPHORIDAE
Barea exarcha (Meyrick) 1 spec. late Nov
Endrosis sarcitrella (Linnaeus) Oct
Gymnobathra sarcoxantha Meyrick Nov
Izatha peroneanella (Walker) Nov
I. teras (Walker) Nov
Parocystola acroxantha (Meyrick) 1 spec. mid Nov
Phaeosaces apocrypta Meyrick Oct-Nov
Tingena opertella (Meyrick) 1 spec. mid Nov

ARCTIIDAE
Utethesia pulchelloides vaga Jordan 1 spec. Jan, 1 spec. Mar
Nyctemera annulata (Boisduval) Nov-Dec, Mar

NOCTUIDAE
Agrotis ipsilon anietuma (Walker) 1 spec. mid Nov, Jan-Jun
Aletia cuneata Philpott 1 spec. early Dec 1983
A. moderata (Walker) Sep-May
A. obsecrata Meyrick 1 spec. early Dec 1983
Bityla defigurata (Walker) Feb, Apr-Jun
Diarsia intermixta (Guenée) 1 spec. Apr-May
Dipaustica epiastra (Meyrick) Nov-Jan
Feredayia graminosa (Walker) 1 spec. mid Dec
Graphania agorastis (Meyrick) Dec-Feb
G. averilla (Hudson) Nov, Feb, May
G. disjungens (Walker) Dec
G. infensa (Walker) Oct-Dec
G. insignis (Walker) Sep-Dec, Apr-May
G. lignana (Walker) Mar-May
G. mollis (Howes) Nov-Jan
G. morosa (Butler) Jan-May
G. mutans (Walker) Sep-Jun
G. nullifera (Walker) Dec-Feb
G. omoplaca (Meyrick) Oct-Feb
G. paracausta (Meyrick) Oct-Nov
G. plena (Walker) Sep-Jun
G. rubescens (Butler) Nov-Mar
G. ustistriga (Walker) Sep-May
Heliothis armigera conferta Walker Nov, Feb-May
Ichneutica ceraunias Meyrick 1 spec. Jan
Meterana alcyone (Hudson) Sep-Nov
M. decorata (Philpott) Sep-Jan, Mar-May
M. diatmeta (Hudson) Nov 1983

Table 1: — *continued*

M. dotata (Walker) Feb-Apr
M. inchoata (Philpott) Sep-Nov
M. levis (Philpott) Oct
M. ochthistis (Meyrick) Oct-Nov, Jan, Mar-Jun
M. pansicolor (Howes) Oct-Nov
M. pascoi (Howes) Oct-Nov
M. praesignis (Howes) Sep-Dec
M. stipata (Walker) Sep-Jun
M. tartarea (Butler) 1 spec. Apr-May
M. vitiosa (Butler) 1 spec. Apr-May
Persectania aversa (Walker) Sep-Jun
Rhapsa scotosialis Walker Oct-Nov, Apr-Mar
Rictonis comma (Walker) Nov-Jan, Mar
Tmetolophota acontistis (Meyrick) Nov 1983
T. alopa (Meyrick) 1 spec. Mar
T. arotis (Meyrick) Sep-Nov
T. atristriga (Walker) Oct-May
T. phaula (Meyrick) Nov-Dec
T. purdii (Fereday) 1 spec. Dec
T. semivittata (Walker) Oct-May
T. steropastis (Meyrick) Nov-Feb
T. sulcana (Fereday) Feb-May
T. unica (Walker) Nov-Dec

GEOMETRIDAE
Asaphodes aegrota (Butler) Oct-Nov, Feb-May
A. abrogata (Walker) 2 specs mid Mar
A. chlamydota (Meyrick) 1 spec. mid Nov
Austrocidaria similata (Walker) 1 spec. mid Nov, 1 spec. mid Feb
Chlororclystis inductata (Walker) 1 spec. Nov
Declana egregia (Felder & Rogenhofer) 1 spec. early Oct
D. feredayi (Butler) Nov
D. floccosa Walker Oct-Feb, Apr-May
D. griseata Hudson 1 spec. mid Oct
D. junctilinea (Walker) 1 spec. mid Nov
D. leptomera (Walker) Sep-Nov, Feb, May
D. niveata Butler Dec, Jan-Feb
Epiphryne undosata (Felder & Rogenhofer) 1 spec. late Jan
E. verriculata (Felder & Rogenhofer) Oct, Jan-Feb
Epyaxa rosearia (Doubleday) Sep-Oct, Mar-Jun
Helastia cinerearia (Doubleday) Oct-Nov, May
H. semifissata (Walker) Sep-May
H. corcularia (Guenée) Oct-Nov, Jan-Mar
Hydriomena rixata (Felder & Rogenhofer) Jan-Feb
Ischalis fortinata (Guenée) Oct-Nov, Mar
Orthoclydon praefectata (Walker) Oct-Nov, Feb, Apr-May
Pasiphila muscosata (Walker) 1 spec. Oct
Phrissogonus testulata (Guenée) 1 spec. Jun
Pseudocoremia fascialata (Philpott) 1 spec. Feb
P. rudisata (Walker) Oct-Nov
P. leucelaea (Meyrick) Sep-Nov, Apr-May
Tatosoma tipulata (Walker) Oct, Feb
"Xanthorrhoe" occulta Philpott Nov
Xyridacma veronicae Prout Sep-Oct, Jun
X. ustaria (Walker) Oct-Nov, Feb-May

PYRALIDAE
Antiscopa elaphra (Meyrick) 2 specs Jun, Oct
Eudonia psammitis (Meyrick) Sep-Nov, May
Deana hybreasalis (Walker) Oct-Nov, Feb, Apr-May
Mnesictena flavidalis (Doubleday) Oct-Nov, Feb, Apr-May
M. notata (Butler) Nov, Apr-May
Orocrambus flexuosellus (Doubleday) Nov, May-Jun
O. melitastes (Meyrick) Nov
Patagoniodes farinaria (Turner) 1 spec. mid Feb
Scoparia atmogramma Meyrick Oct
S. petrina (Meyrick) Nov
S. aspidota (Meyrick) Nov
S. feredayi Knaggs Oct-Nov
S. halopis Meyrick Oct-Nov, May
S. octophora (Meyrick) Oct-Nov
S. philerga Meyrick 1 spec. Oct
S. rotuella (Felder & Rogenhofer) Oct-Nov, Jan-Feb
S. ustimacula (Felder & Rogenhofer) Oct
Uresiphita polygonalis maorialis (Felder & Rogenhofer) 1 spec. Nov

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