

NOTES ON NEW ZEALAND LEPIDOPTERA

No. 11.

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The following observations on New Zealand Lepidoptera were made during the season 1929-30.

My best thanks are due to Mr. Lawford White for the notes on *Orophora unicolor*, and also to Mr. E. S. Gourlay for specimens of young larvae of *Lycaena labradus* and additional food plant for this species.

LYCAENIDAE.

Lycaena labradus Godt.

Mature larva, length 10mm., greatest breadth 4mm., flattened ventrally, head very small, retracted under thorax; general form like a woodlouse. *Colour*.—Bright green, dorsal and lateral stripe pale grey. Body surface with few weak hairs, sixteen legs. Food plant—*Carmichaelia subulata*, prostrate form.

Locality—Birdling's Flat, January 26, 1930.

Young larva, length 5mm., greatest breadth 2½mm.; differs from adult in being covered with short, weak hairs; body segments more constricted at joints, and grey dorsal line with central dark green streak.

Locality—Nelson. Food plant—Small clover (*Medicago lupulina*). E. S. Gourlay, August 2, 1930.

Pupa, 7mm. long, stout, pale greyish fuscous, covered with numerous minute, pale fuscous, irregular spots, dorsal and lateral line of black spots, spiracles black, attached posteriorly by silk pad.

♂ Imago emerged February 26, 1930.

NOCTUIDAE.

Aletia temenaula Meyr.

Adult larva, 25mm. long, elongate, smooth, ochreous; numerous longitudinal stripes, pale fuscous; sixteen legs. Food plant—Tussock grass (*Poa caespitosa*).

Pupa, 15mm. long, normal, reddish brown.

Larva, Birdling's Flat, January 26, 1930.

♂ Imago emerged February 28, 1930.

Aletia mitis Butl. (**gourlayi**) Philp.

A good series of this rare species was taken at Castle Hill, on the old West Coast Road. March 8-10, 1930.

MONOCTENIADAE.

Samana acutata Butl.

Adult larva, length 25mm., breadth $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm., body smooth, spindle-shaped. Colour pale grey, numerous dark grey longitudinal stripes, with minute black dots between these. Ten legs. Food plant—*Carmichaelia subulata* (prostrate form). Insect feeding at night, inactive during day, when it has an extremely close resemblance to a small dead stem of the food plant.

Pupa, 10mm. long, normal, pale yellowish fuscous, in slight silken cocoon among dead stems of food plant.

Larva, Birdling's Flat, January 26, 1930.

♀ Imago emerged March 10, 1930.

Theoxena scissaria Gn.

This rare species was found in abundance by the writer on June 8; 1930, among tussock grass (*Poa caespitosa*) by day, above the Horseshoe Slip, at Mt. Grey, North Canterbury.

On June 15, 1930, over forty specimens were taken in the same restricted spot by Mr. Lawford White. The locality was again visited by the writer on July 5, 1930, but no specimens were then seen. Apparently the species is normally a winter form, and very local in its distribution, but quite common at the proper season.

PHYCITIDAE.

Ephestia calidella Gn.

A number of specimens of this widespread domestic species were bred from larvae, feeding in walnuts imported from China; these were obtained from a grocery store at Christchurch. Imagos emerged January, 1930. As this species, so far as the writer is aware, has not been previously recorded in New Zealand, the following description is given from Meyrick's Handbook of British Lepidoptera, p. 373, 1895:—

Description.—18-22mm. Forewings with costa more arched posteriorly, in ♂ with costal fold small, loosely scaled; fuscous, irrorated with fuscous whitish and dark fuscous; lines pale, first posteriorly dark-edged, angulated near costa, twice indented beneath; second dark-edged, strongly indented near costa; two dark fuscous transversely placed discal dots. Hind wings fuscous-whitish, termen fuscous, in ♂ with subdorsal whitish-ochreous basal hair-tuft.

Delogenes limodoxa Meyr.

The following new locality for this local species is recorded here. The single ♂ taken differs from the typical form in having the median area of forewings from first to second lines wholly very dark fuscous, but otherwise identical.

Sandhills, Bottle Lake, near Christchurch, November 3, 1929.

CRAMBIDAE.

Talis leucophthalma Meyr.

A series of this local species was taken at Birdling's Flat on March 3, 1929. A single specimen was also taken by Mr. Lawford White in November, at Waiau, North Canterbury.

In these specimens the ground colour of forewings is considerably darker than in the typical Lyttelton Hills form.

PSYCHIDAE.

Orophora unicolor Butl

Forty-four cases containing pupa of this rare species were collected by Mr. Lawford White, on the property of M. Iverach, at Waiau, North Canterbury, in November, 1929. The cases were attached to Wild Irishman bushes (*Discaria toumatou*), a few being also found on Cassinias.

Over one hundred old empty cases were observed. Three cases had larvae in them, but these would not feed on tussock grass, probably due to being near pupation.

On March 4, 1930, the first male insect emerged, and from then on approximately forty males emerged. No females were found in any of the remaining cases; several of these contained dead larva and pupae, but no parasites emerged.

One male was seen in the act of emerging; the pupa wriggled out of the larva case until the wing covers were free. A heaving motion then commenced in the thorax, resulting in the splitting of the plates over the eyes, legs, and antennae. The moth gradually emerged by grasping the severed plate and drawing itself up and out, and then climbed onto the outside of the larva case. When withdrawing the abdomen from the pupa case, some creamy fluid was ejected from the body. The time taken for emergence was five minutes, and to expand the wings three minutes. Some of the males were very active in the breeding cage, while others never moved from the larva case.

GELECHIADAE.

Epithectis zophochalca Meyr.

A single specimen of this extremely rare insect was captured by Mr. Lawford White at Birdling's Flat, near Lake Ellesmere, on November 30, 1929. The moth was flying by day over bushes of *Carmichaelia subulata*.

GLYPHIPTERYGIDAE.

Glyphipteryx bactrias Meyr.

A series of this local species was taken, flying by day, among sedges (*Carex* sp.), at an altitude of approximately 1,000 feet, at Mt. Grey, North Canterbury, on November 17, 1930. Previously this insect has been recorded only from coastal marshes at Invercargill, and Bottle Lake, near Christchurch.