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CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE
OF NOCTUOIDEA IN SICILY
(*Lepidoptera Nolidae, Erebidae, Noctuidae*)

RIASSUNTO

Gli Autori, sulla base di recenti ricerche svolte sull'Etna, sui monti Nebrodi e Iblei ed in una area umida della piana di Catania, riportano la presenza di 115 specie di Lepidoptera Noctuoidea, segnalando come nuove per la fauna di Sicilia i Noctuidae *Euxoa decora* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775) e *Agrotis endogaea* (Boisduval, 1834).

SUMMARY

Contribution to the knowledge of Noctuoidea in Sicily (Lepidoptera Nolidae, Erebidae, Noctuidae). Authors give a synthetic account of the Lepidoptera Noctuoidea collected on Etna, Nebrodi Mts., Iblean region and on a humid zone of Catania plain (Sicily), reporting for the first time the presence of Noctuidae *Euxoa decora* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775) and *Agrotis endogaea* (Boisduval, 1834).

INTRODUCTION

This research was carried out by means of observations in some of the most interesting natural areas in Eastern Sicily, aiming at increasing the knowledge on Lepidoptera Noctuoidea. Altogether, 115 species were observed; two of them, *Euxoa decora* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775) and *Agrotis endogaea* (Boisduval, 1834), are new for Sicilian fauna.

125 Watt HG -lamps were used and sugar bait on ropes was provided to attract moths; additionally, netting in the light of head-lamps was performed.

In the list of the observed species, the number after each species refers to the collection sites. The systematic order follows FIBIGER & HACKER (2005).

Catches were carried out in the following areas:

Etna (Regional Park)

Locality no. 1 - Milo (CT), Casa Pietracannone, m 1150 a.s.l., 8.IX.2002.

Locality no. 2 - Linguaglossa (CT), Bosco Ragabo, m 1450 a.s.l., 8-9.IX.2002.

Locality no. 3 - Ragalna (CT), Mt. Arso, Bosco di Paternò, m 1000 a.s.l., 9.IX.2002.

Locality no. 8 - San Gregorio di Catania (CT), Immacolatelle and M. Conti, m 200 a.s.l., 9.IX.2002.

Nebrodi Mts. (Regional Park)

Locality no. 4 - San Fratello (ME), Torrente Inganno, m 340 a.s.l., 10-11.IX.2002.

Iblean Region

Locality no. 5 - Pachino (SR), Pantano Longarini, m 0-5 a.s.l., 12.IX.2002.

Locality no. 6 - Noto (SR), Fiume Manghisi, Ponte SS 287, m 400 a.s.l., 13.IX.2002.

Catania Plain

Locality no. 7 - Carlentini (SR), Agnone Bagni, m 0-10 a.s.l., 14.IX.2002.

LIST OF SPECIES

Family NOLIDAE

Subfamilia **Nolinae**

Meganola albula (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4, 6.

Meganola strigula (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 3, 4.

Meganola togatalis (Hübner, 1796): 1.

Nola chlamitulalis (Hübner, 1813): 4.

Subfamilia **Chloephorinae**

Bena bicolorana (Fuessly, 1775): 3, 4, 6.

Subfamilia **Eariadinae**

Earias albovenosana Oberthür, 1917: 4.

Family EREBIDAE

Subfamilia **Rivulinae**

Zebeeba falsalis (Herrich-Schäffer 1838): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Subfamilia **Boletobiinae**

Parascotia nisseni Turati, 1905: 4, 6.

Subfamilia **Hypenodinae**

Hypenodes kalchbergi Staudinger, 1876: 1, 4, 6.

Remarks. The species is endemic to Sicily, rarely recorded; it was collected mainly on sugar bait, rarely on light.

Subfamilia **Araeopteroninae**

Araeopteron ecphaea (Hampson, 1914): 7.

Remarks. This species was found in Europe only recently (FIBIGER & AGASSIZ, 2001). In Italy it has been reported only for Calabria, Tuscany (SCALERCIO *et al.*, 2002) and Sicily (PARENZAN *et al.*, 2006).

Subfamilia **Eublemminae**

Eublemma viridula (Guenée, 1841): 1, 3.

Eublemma pulchralis (Villers, 1789) (= *candidana* Fabricius, 1794): 4, 5.

Eublemma ostrina (Hübner, 1808): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Eublemma parva (Hübner, 1808): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Eublemma amoena (Hübner, 1803) (= *respersa* Hübner, 1790): 3.

Metachrostis velox (Hübner, 1813): 3, 4, 5.

Subfamilia **Herminiinae**

Orectis proboscidata (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851) (= *barteli* Turati, 1907): 1, 6, 8.

Remarks. On Etna all specimens show the darker phenotype *barteli* Turati, 1907, well camouflaging on lavic rocks; everywhere else in Sicily it shows the *proboscidata* pattern (ZILLI, 1995). Most specimens were captured on sugar bait, a few were attracted by headlamps, none by the 125 Watt lamps. The biology of a subtroglophile population was studied on Etna Volcano (BELLA, 1999).

Nodaria nodosalis (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851): 4.

Zanclonatha zelleralis (Wocke, 1850): 1, 4, 6.

Subfamilia **Hypeninae**

Hypena (*Hypena*) *proboscidalis* (Linnaeus, 1758): 3, 4, 6.

Hypena (*Hypena*) *obsitalis* (Hübner, 1813): 3, 8.

Hypena (*Hypena*) *lividalis* (Hübner, 1796): 4, 5.

Subfamilia **Phytometrinae**

Phytometra viridaria (Clerck, 1759): 4, 5.

Subfamilia **Catocalinae**

Lygephila cracca (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 2, 4, 6.

Autophila (*Cheirophanes*) *cataphanes* subsp. *satanas* (Boursin, 1939): 1.

Remarks. The subspecies *satanas* was described on specimens collected on the Etna Volcano.

Clytie illunaris (Hübner, 1813): 4, 7.

Dysgonia algira (Linnaeus, 1767): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Grammodes bifasciata (Petagna, 1787): 4.

Grammodes (= *Prodotis*) *stolida* (Fabricius, 1775): 7.

Catocala elocata (Esper, 1787): 3, 4, 6.

Catocala dilecta (Hübner, 1808): 1.

Family NOCTUIDAE

Subfamilia **Plusiinae**

Abrostola agnorista Dufay, 1956: 6.

Trichoplusia ni (Hübner, 1803): 4, 5.

Ctenoplusia accentifera (Lefebvre, 1827): 7.

Autographa gamma (Linnaeus, 1758): 5, 6, 7.

Cornutiplusia circumflexa (Linnaeus, 1767): 4.

Subfamilia **Eustrotiinae**

Protodeltote pygarga (Hufnagel, 1766): 4.

Pseudozarba bipartita (Herrich-Schäffer, 1850): 6.

Subfamilia **Bagisarinae**

Xanthodes albago (Fabricius, 1794): 7.

Subfamilia **Acontiinae**

Acontia (*Acontia*) *lucida* (Hufnagel, 1766): 4, 6.

Acontia (*Emmelia*) *trabealis* (Scopoli, 1763): 4, 5, 6, 7.

Aedia leucomelas (Linnaeus, 1758): 3, 4.

Subfamilia **Pantheinae**

Colocasia coryli (Linnaeus, 1758): 1.

Subfamilia **Acronictinae**

Acronicta (*Acronicta*) *psi* (Linnaeus, 1758): 4.

Acronicta (Viminia) rumicis (Linnaeus, 1758): 4, 6.

Craniophora ligustri (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4.

Subfamilia **Metoponiinae**

Tyta luctuosa (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Subfamilia **Oncocnemidinae**

Calophasia platyptera (Esper, 1788): 3.

Stilbia faillae Püngeler, 1891: 1, 2.

Subfamilia **Amphipyridae**

Amphipyra tragopoginis (Clerck, 1759): 1, 3.

Subfamilia **Heliothinae**

Helicoverpa armigera (Hübner, 1808): 4, 5, 6.

Subfamilia **Condicinae**

Condica viscosa (Freyer, 1831): 3.

Subfamilia **Eriopinae**

Callopietria juvenina (Stoll, 1782): 4.

Callopietria latreillei (Duponchel, 1827): 4.

Subfamilia **Bryophilinae**

Cryphia (Cryphia) algae (Fabricius, 1775): 1.

Cryphia (Cryphia) pallida (Béthune-Baker, 1894): 2, 3, 4, 6.

Cryphia (Bryoleuca) raptricula (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 1, 3.

Cryphia (Bryophila) domestica (Hufnagel, 1766): 1, 3.

Cryphia (Bryopsis) muralis (Forster, 1771): 1, 2, 3.

Subfamilia **Xyleninae**

Spodoptera exigua (Hübner, 1808): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Spodoptera littoralis (Boisduval, 1833): 7.

Caradrina (Platyperigea) aspersa (Rambur, 1834): 3, 4.

Caradrina (Paradrina) clavipalpis (Scopoli, 1763): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Hoplodrina superstes (Ochsenheimer, 1816): 6.

Hoplodrina ambigua (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4.

Anthraccia ephialtes (Hübner, 1822): 4.

Mormo maura (Linnaeus, 1758): 6.

Olivenebula xanthochloris Boisduval, 1840: 2, 3.

Thalophila vitalba (Freyer, 1834): 3, 4, 6.

Chloantha hyperici (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4, 6.

- Oligia latruncula* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 3.
Mesoligia furuncula (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 3.
Mesapamea (*Mesapamea*) *secalis* (Linnaeus, 1758): 3, 4.
Luperina testacea (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 1, 2, 3.
Luperina irritaria subsp. *sobnretheli* Draudt, 1931: 1, 2.
Sesamia nonagrioides (Lefébvre, 1827): 3, 5.
Leucochlaena (*Leucochlaena*) *seposita* Turati, 1919: 1, 2.
Dryobota labecula (Esper, 1788): 3.
Mniotype solieri (Boisduval, 1840): 1, 3.

Subfamilia **Hadeninae**

- Anarta* (*Caloestra*) *trifolii* (Hufnagel, 1766): 3, 4, 5.
Cardepija sociabilis (de Graslin, 1850): 5.
Lacanobia (*Diataraxia*) *blenna* (Hübner, 1824): 5.
Mamestra brassicae (Linnaeus, 1758): 3.
Hecatera bicolorata (Hufnagel, 1766): 4.
Mythimna (*Pseudaletia*) *unipuncta* (Haworth, 1809): 6.
Mythimna (*Sablia*) *sicula* (Treitschke, 1835): 3, 4, 6.
Mythimna (*Prodigithymna*) *prominens* (Walker, 1856): 1, 7.
Mythimna (*Morphopoliana*) *languida* (Walker, 1858): 7.

Remarks. From Italy, it has been reported in Trentino-Alto Adige, Tuscan Archipelago, Latium, Apulia, Lucania and Calabria (PARENZAN & PORCELLI, 2005-2006); in Sicily it was recorded for the first time from Pantano Longarini (SR) (BELLA *et al.*, 1999) and subsequently from Stromboli (Eolian Islands, ME) (REZBANYAI-RESER & HAUSMANN, 2000; DAPPORTO & LO CASCIO, 2001) and many other Sicilian localities (RUSSO *et al.*, 2001).

- Mythimna* (*Hyphilare*) *albipuncta* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4.
Mythimna (*Hyphilare*) *ferrago* (Fabricius, 1787): 1, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Leucania (*Leucania*) *zeae* (Duponchel, 1827): 5.
Leucania (*Leucania*) *putrescens* (Hübner, 1824): 1, 3, 4, 6.
Leucania (*Leucania*) *punctosa* (Treitschke, 1825): 3, 4, 6.
Leucania (*Acantholeucania*) *loreyi* (Duponchel, 1827): 4, 7.

Subfamilia **Noctuinae**

- Euxoa* (*Euxoa*) *obelisca* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 3.
Euxoa (*Euxoa*) *cos* (Hübner, 1824): 3.
Euxoa (*Euxoa*) *decora* (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4 (5♂♂, 2♀♀)

(Fig. 1 a, b).

Remarks. New species for Sicilian fauna. It is distributed on Mediterranean and Asia; in Italy it has been quoted from the Alpine region

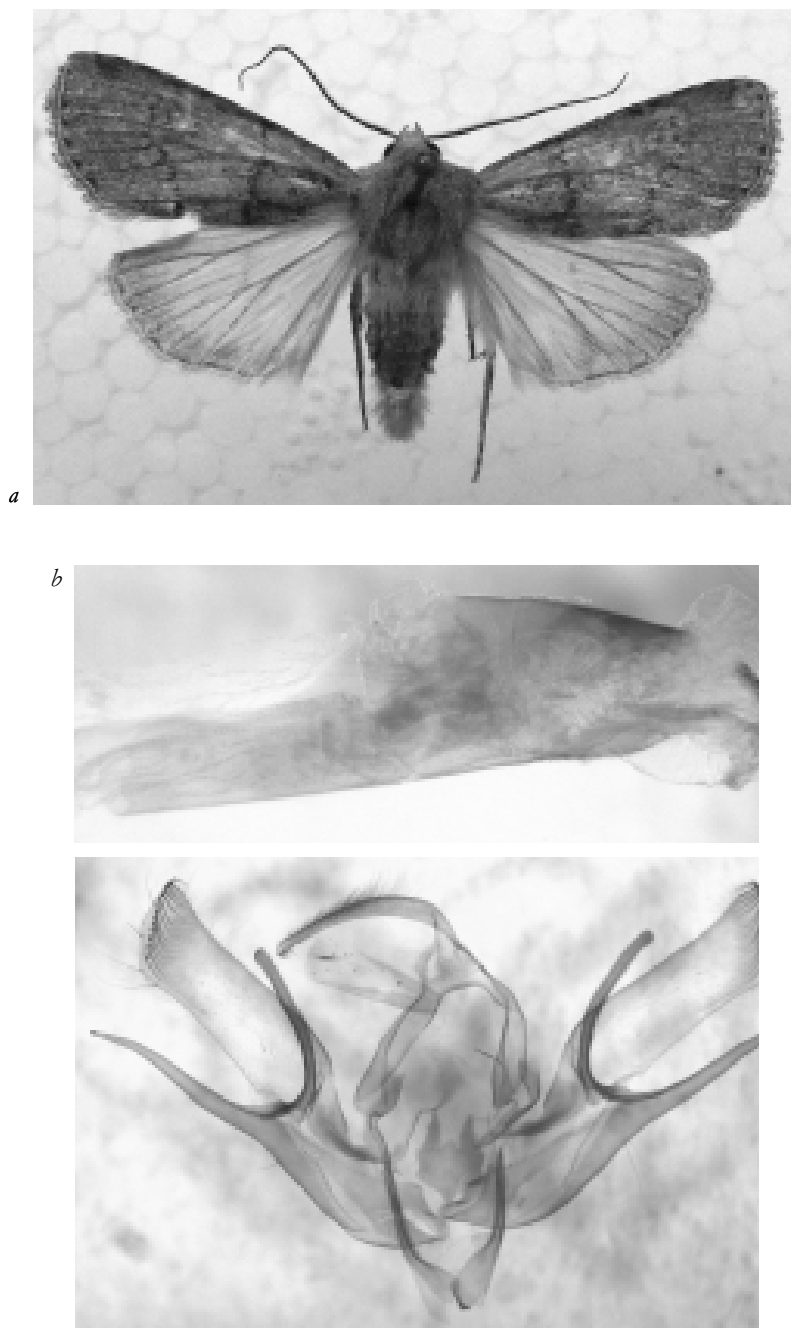


Fig. 1 a, b. — *Euxoa decora* (Denis et Schiffermüller). a - Adult, male, Sicily, San Fratello (ME), Torrente Inganno, 11.IX.2002; b - Idem, genitalia, PG 101 S. Bella.

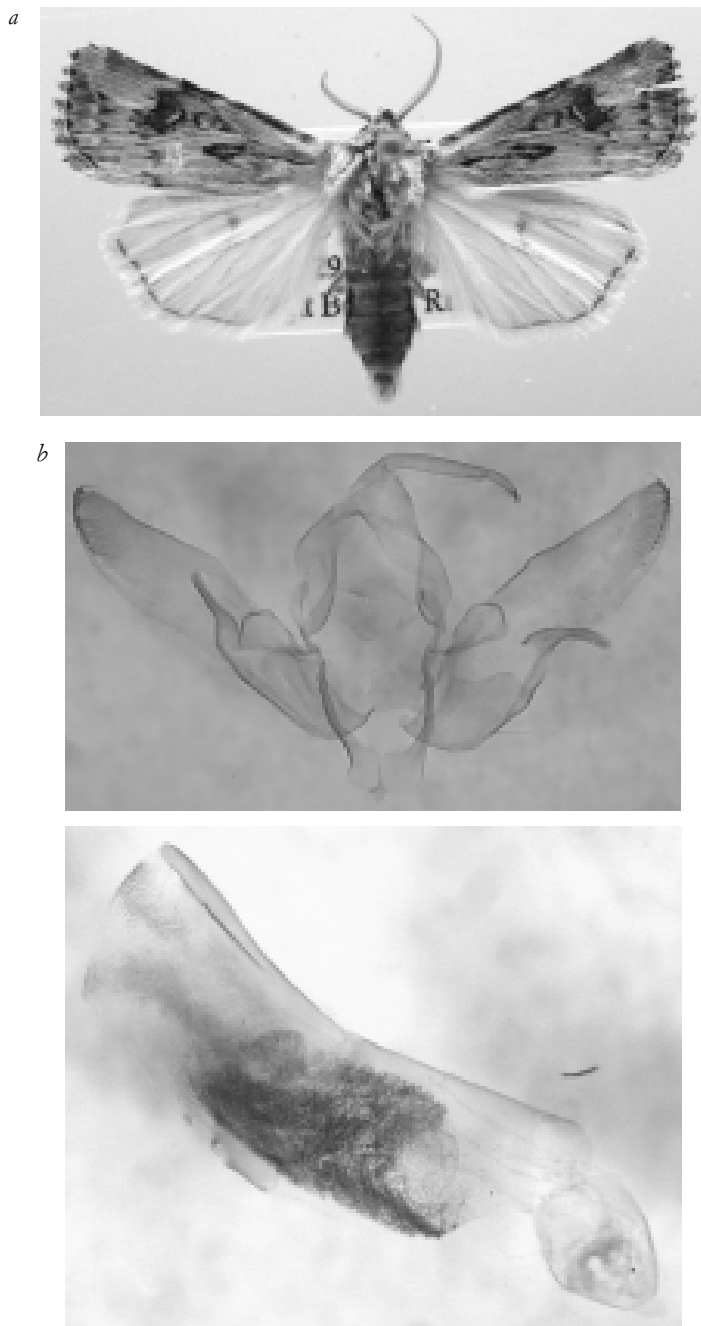


Fig. 2 a, b. — *Agrotis endogaea* Boisduval. a - Adult, male, Sicily, Pachino (SR), Pantano Longarini, 12.IX.2002; b - Idem, genitalia, PG 102 S. Bella.

and northern and central provinces of the Apennines (FIBIGER, 1990) (Val d'Aosta, Piedmont, Lombardy, Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli Venetia-Julia, Liguria, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Marche, Latium, Abruzzo: PARENZAN & PORCELLI, 2005-2006).

Agrotis bigramma (Esper, 1790) (= *crassa* (Hübner, 1803)): 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Agrotis lata Treitschke, 1835 (= *dirempta* Staudinger, 1859): 4, 6.

Agrotis segetum (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 4.

Agrotis endogaea Boisduval, 1834 (= *arenicola* Staudinger, 1870): 5 (3♂♂, 2♀♀) (Fig. 2 a, b).

Remarks. New species for Sicilian fauna. Distributed on mediterranean-atlantic areas, it has been reported from Corsica, Sardinia, Greece, Tunisia and Canary Islands (FIBIGER, 1990, 1997). A Sicilian specimen is preserved in the British Museum (PARENZAN & PORCELLI, 2005-2006).

Agrotis trux (Hübner, 1824): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Agrotis puta (Hübner, 1803): 4, 5, 6, 7.

Agrotis syricola Corti et Draudt, 1933: 1.

Agrotis ipsilon (Hufnagel, 1766): 1, 3, 4, 6, 7.

Axylia putris (Linnaeus, 1761): 4.

Ochropleura plecta (Linnaeus, 1761): 3, 4.

Ochropleura leucogaster (Freyer, 1831): 4.

Cerastis faceta (Treitschke, 1835): 6.

Noctua promuba (Linnaeus, 1758): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Noctua tirrenica Biebinger, Speidel et Hanigk, 1983: 1, 6.

Noctua janthina (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 6.

Noctua comes (Hübner, 1813): 1, 3, 4, 6.

Epilecta linogrisea (Denis et Schiffermüller, 1775): 1, 3.

Xestia (Megasema) c-nigrum (Linnaeus, 1758): 3, 4.

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