

Some Notes on Lepidoptera, 1922.

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THE fine weather of May and early June seemed almost to promise another summer of the type of 1921, but this promise was sadly belied by late June, July and August, and the season as a whole was not a very productive one. But if insects were in the latter part of the summer scarce and difficult to obtain, there are several occurrences of rather more than ordinary interest to record. In Repton Shrubs on June 11th a specimen of *Argynnis Euphrosyne* was taken by a boy from Repton School. This species is mentioned in old records as common in that locality, but it had long been regarded as extinct there and elsewhere within the county borders. The last extant record from the wood is of a single specimen in 1865 by H. H. Crewe. Mr. G. H. Storer, of Burton, informs me that in 1919 a specimen of this butterfly was brought to him for identification, taken in early June at Tatenhill, and that a second specimen was seen about the same date near Rangemore. This species has also occurred this year at Holy Moor, near Chesterfield, where two specimens, of which one was captured, were observed by Mr. S. Hooke. Of equal interest is the occurrence at Holy Moor of *Syrichthus Malvae*, three specimens of which were recorded from Repton in 1919. As so many of our butterflies have in recent years disappeared from the county, it is to be hoped that these two species may succeed in establishing themselves to redress the balance. *Colias Croceus* (*Edusa*) was reported in

the "Entomologist" for October from Hardwick Park, and several specimens of *Gonopteryx Rhamni* were seen in the Via Gellia on June 10th. *Herse Convolvuli*, which has appeared in such unusual numbers in the south this autumn, has been taken in Derby by Mr. N. H. Wood. A specimen of this fine moth was also taken at Repton in early June. Several captures of this insect in June have been reported from various localities this year, but the occurrence is normally very rare.

Since 1916, when my attention was first turned to the smaller species, no year has passed without some additions to the county lists, and 1922 is no exception. The new records are seven in all. A visit to Holy Moor on June 6th is responsible for two of these, the Tortrix *Lophoderus Politana* and the Tineid *Gelechia Longicornis*. That such a common and comparatively conspicuous insect as the latter had been previously overlooked shows how little attention has been paid to the smaller species outside the southern portion of the county, and probably many new records would be made if any collector would devote his attention to the Tineids of the high moorlands of the north. Amongst other insects noted on the same visit were *Acronycta Menyanthidis*, *Arctia Fuliginosa*, *Eubolia Plumbaria*, *Phycis Fusca* and *Euchromia Mygindana*. And in the same locality Mr. Hooke has taken the following species amongst many others; *Calocampa Solidaginis*, *Triphaena Fimbria*, *Rusina Tenebrosa*, *Plusia Interrogationis*, *Celaena Haworthii*, *Scodionia Belgiaria* and *Venusia Cambrica*. On June 10th a visit was paid to the Via Gellia, where *Ino Geryon*, *Onocera Ahenella*, *Pyrausta Aurata*, *Ennychia Cingulata* and *Platyptilia Gonodactyla* were found in some numbers.

By the courtesy of Mr. G. Austin I was allowed on several occasions to visit his extensive warehouses in Full Street, Derby, in search of distinctively "warehouse" moths. The now ubiquitous *Ephestia Kühniella* was

found there, together with *Ephestia Elutella* and *Plodia Interpunctella*, of all of which good series were obtained, and in addition to these a single specimen of *Ephestia Passulella*, a species not hitherto recorded in the county. Mr. Kaye, of the Market Place, Derby, also kindly allowed me to examine his stores of cattle cake, etc., and besides *Pyralis Farinalis*, *E. Kühniella* and *E. Elutella*, I found a few specimens of *Tinea Ferruginella*, also new to the county lists. *Teleia Dodocella*, *Coleophora Palliatella*, and *Gracilaria Hemidactylella*, all from Repton, complete the new records for this year. The total number of lepidoptera now recorded as occurring in the county is 997, a fairly substantial increase upon the 914 recorded in the "Victoria County History" published in 1905.

Several specimens of *Melanippe Hastata* were seen and taken in Repton Shrubs, where the insect had not previously been observed. It has occurred at Little Eaton and elsewhere in the county, and it is much to be hoped that so attractive an insect may become a permanent inhabitant of the wood.

Amongst the Tortrices it was gratifying to take another specimen of the rare *Coccyx Ochsenheimeriana*, whose claim to inclusion in our lists hitherto rested on a single specimen, and also to find several *Stigmonota Coniferana*, which was reported for the first time last year. *Blastotere Atmoriella*, the nomenclature of which caused so much confusion a few years ago, was this season taken more freely than usual, something like a dozen specimens being secured. In the hot weather of May larvae of various species flourished exceedingly in the tops of osiers and willows, and a long series was bred of *Paedisca Semifuscana*, first recorded for the county last year. The series shows an interesting range of variation here. Amongst these larvæ were also a fair number of *Antithesia Salicella*, hitherto regarded as a very rare species here, and a few *Hedya Neglectana* and *Peronea Aspersiona*.

I mentioned in my notes last year that I hoped to breed some melanic *Eupithecia Castigata* from a pure black female, but the brood proved disappointing, none but rather dark ordinary specimens emerging. Possibly in the next generation the melanic tendency would have reasserted itself in Mendelian proportion, but unfortunately I failed to continue the breed. En revanche from a number of pupæ of *Eupithecia Trisignata* I bred one pure melanic, and this, so far as I can ascertain, is new, though the list of known melanics in this genus is already a considerable one. This autumn the larva has been far commoner than usual on the *Angelica* in its restricted haunts, and more than a hundred have been collected, from which it is hoped to establish firmly the existence of a new melanic mutation.
