

## Some Notes on Collecting Lepidoptera at Repton, 1916.

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THE lists of Lepidoptera published in the *Victorian County History for Derbyshire* are based upon the records of a fair number of collectors as far as the Macro-Lepidoptera are concerned, and may be regarded as tolerably complete ; but as the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain remarks in his preface, a good deal still remains to be done among the Micros, more especially the Tineae. An attempt has been made this year at Repton on behalf of the Derbyshire Entomological Society to supplement the county lists of these smaller species and the results have certainly been encouraging, seeing that a single collector, working in the very area that had been most fully investigated previously, has been able to add as many as 35 new species to the list. In order to secure accuracy of identification, the specimens have all been submitted to Mr. Arthur Doncaster, who has referred all doubtful cases to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. Mr. F. N. Pierce has also very kindly examined the genitalia of some of the specimens of the more difficult genera. In the *Transactions of the Burton-on-Trent Natural History and Archæological Society* for 1892 was published a list of the Micro-Lepidoptera of Burton and the neighbourhood by Messrs. J. T. Harris and P. B. Mason and this list, together with that in the Repton *Flora and Fauna* of 1881 form almost the sole basis of the county list for the Tineae, whilst for the Pylalides and Tortrices these

are supplemented by many notes supplied by the late Mr. J. Hill of Little Eaton. From other parts of the county there are few records relating to these families. Amongst the Pyralides, *Scoparia Cratægella* was hitherto unrecorded, whilst *S. Cembrae* and *S. Truncicolella* were also taken; of *Hydrocampa Lemnata* several very richly marked males were taken, the brown pencilling being almost as pronounced as in typical females, and the pale form of *H. Stagnata*, which was at one time erroneously regarded as *H. Rivulalis*, was not uncommon on the Trent amongst swarms of typical examples. Amongst the Crambi, *Crambus Pinellus* occurred freely in Repton Shrubs in August and it is strange that so conspicuous an insect should have escaped previous observation. Amongst the Tortrices the fresh records comprise *Sciaphila Pascuana*, *Grapholitha Cinerana*, *Retinia Posticana* and *Dichrorampha Herbosana*. Of these the most interesting is *R. Posticana*, a scarce species away from its northern haunts. Other captures of interest in this group are *Retinia Pinicolana*, which occurs in Repton Shrubs along with *R. Buoliana*, *R. Pinivorana*, *Orthotænia Striana* and the scarce *Sciaphila Sinuana* (*Incanana*). A very large and dark form of *Spilonota Ocellana* was also taken, of such an unusual appearance that it was at first mistaken by Mr. Doncaster for *Carpocapsa Grossana*.

As was to be expected the greatest number of additions was made amongst the Tineæ. Of these the most striking was *Blastotere Glabratella*, an insect not at present included in the British lists, though I believe it has been reported also from other localities during the last decade. It is suggested that the practice current amongst some nurserymen of importing young conifers from Holland and Germany, instead of raising their own stock, has been responsible for its introduction. Two specimens were secured in Repton Shrubs. The following is a

list of the other species taken, not previously recorded in the County lists.

Amongst the Epigraphiidae, *Lemnatophila Salicella*; amongst the Psychidae, *Pysche Pulla*, of which two males and several females were bred from cases found in Repton Shrubs, not at all a probable locality for this species; of the Tineidae, *Tinea Biselliella*, *Lampronia Rubiella*, abundant in one spot, *Micropteryx Purpurella* and *M. Unimaculella*; of the Yponomeutidae, *Swammerdamia Cæsiella* and var *Griseocapitella*, abundant in hawthorn hedges, *S. Lutarea* and *Pepilia Curtisellus*; of the Plutellidae, *Harpipteryx Nemorella*, a common species apparently overlooked in the County list, but mentioned in a list sent me by the Rev. R. E. E. Frampton, late of Winshill; of the Gelechiidae, *Depressaria Zephyrella*, *Gelechia Nigra*, *G. Scalella*, *G. Nivea* and *Butalis Fuscoaenea*; of the Glyphipterygidae, *Tinagma Stanneella*; of the Argyresthidae, *Argyresthia Conjugella*, *A. Semifusca*, *A. Mendica*, *A. Pygmæella*, *Cedestis Farinatella* and *C. Gysselinella*; of the Gracilariidae, *Ornix Betulæ*; of the Coleophoridae, *Coleophora Lutipennella*; of the Elachistidae, *Chrysochoris Festaliella* and *Elachista Apicipunctella*; of the Lithocolletidae, *Lithocolletis Frohlichella*, and of the Nepticulidae, *Trifurcula Pulverosella*.

Turning to the larger families an interesting record of *Vanessa Io* is made by Mr. H. M. Leach from Taddington; *Hesperia Sylvanus* was taken at Repton Rocks: the species had not previously been reported from this immediate neighbourhood, though it occurs sparingly near Melbourne. *Chaerocampa Porcellus* was recorded by Dr. St. John from Belper, and at Coxbench Mr. G. H. Sale has taken specimens of *Eupithecia Coronata*, a species new to the County lists and of great scarcity in the Midlands generally. At Repton the most interesting captures of the year were *Hecatera Serena*, not recorded previously to 1914 and three or four specimens of *Miana Bicoloria*

(*Furuncula*), of which only one casual specimen had previously been recorded for the county, at sugar at Repton in 1906. These insects were taken by a swampy pool near Willington and are of the large and almost unicolorous inland form. Apart from these captures it may be of interest to note an experience in the rearing of *Bombyx Quercus* var. *Callunæ* from ova obtained from a captured *Q* from Breadsall Moor. A number of larvae were liberated in the south, under identical conditions with a brood of *B. Quercus* from Bude in Cornwall: they were kept through the winter on ivy and transferred to hawthorn in the spring. They fed rapidly and pupated a little earlier than the Bude larvae and the majority of the insects emerged in July and August about a week before the Bude insects put in an appearance. Thus the major part of a brood of *Callunæ*, which normally has a two-year cycle assumed the one-year cycle habit of *ercus*, when reared under southern conditions. It was observed however that whereas all the *Quercus* emerged, a small proportion, perhaps amounting to ten per cent. over till next year. From ova obtained from a *Hadena Glauca* from Darley Dale a series of strikingly large and handsome forms of this species was also bred. In early April about a dozen specimens of *Amphidasys Strataria*, usually a rare species here, were taken in Repton Shrubs and *Brephos Parthenias* was again observed. In recording the appearance of this species there last year I attributed in error the earlier record of it in 1882 to Mr. H. H. Crewe. The credit of this observation really belongs to Mr. Thomas Gibbs, one of our members, by whom it was recorded in the *Transactions of the Burton Natural History Society* for 1889, and to whom my apologies are therefore due. My error was owing to the fact that I took the record from the *Victoria County History*, in which Mr. Gibbs' name is not mentioned and Mr. Crewe's initials are appended to the adjacent record from the Melbourne district.