



SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterología

ISSN: 0300-5267

avives@eresmas.net

Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de
Lepidopterología
España

Skule, B.; Nilsson, D.

Actebia (*Parexarnis*) *photophila* (Guenée, 1852) - a noctuid species new to mainland Spain and Europe - and records of *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903) - a micro-moth also new to Spain
(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, Tortricidae)

SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterología, vol. 36, núm. 144, diciembre, 2008, pp. 431-434

Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de Lepidopterología
Madrid, España

Available in: <http://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=45511220003>

- How to cite
- Complete issue
- More information about this article
- Journal's homepage in redalyc.org

redalyc.org

Scientific Information System

Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal

Non-profit academic project, developed under the open access initiative

Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila (Guenée, 1852)
- a noctuid species new to mainland Spain and Europe
- and records of *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham,
1903) - a micro-moth also new to Spain
(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, Tortricidae)

B. Skule & D. Nilsson

Abstract

During field trips in 2006 and 2007 to Southern Spain, two specimens of the North African noctuid species *Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila* (Gn.) were recorded at light near Tarifa by the Danish lepidopterist Peder Skou, new to mainland Spain. The specimens were amongst material from the area also counting numerous specimens (>>100) of the Tortricid *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903) (pers. comm. Ole Karsholt, Statens Naturhistoriske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark). This species is new to Spain, too. The male and female genitalia of *A. photophila* (Gn.) are pictured for the first time.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Tortricidae, *Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila*, *Cydia blackmoreana*, new records, Spain.

Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila (Guenée, 1852) - una especie de noctuido nuevo para España peninsular y Europa - y se cita *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903)- un microlepidóptero también nuevo para España (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, Tortricidae)

Resumen

Durante los viajes de estudio en 2006 y 2007 al sur de España, fueron capturados a la luz cerca de Tarifa, dos especímenes del noctuido norteafricano *Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila* (Gn.), por el lepidopterista danés Peder Skou, nueva para España peninsular. Entre las muestras del material de la zona, se contabilizaron (>>100) numerosos especímenes del tortricido *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903) (com. pers. Ole Karsholt, Statens Naturhistoriske Museum, Copenhague, Dinamarca). Esta especie también es nueva para España. La genitalia del macho y de la hembra de *A. photophila* (Gn.), se representa por primera vez.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Tortricidae, *Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila*, *Cydia blackmoreana*, nuevas citas, España.

Introduction

This article deals with findings of moths new to Spain (and Europe) recorded by Peder Skou, Denmark during a field trip to Southern Spain in May 2006 and April 2007.

Material

Cydia blackmoreana (Walsingham, 1903)

Laspeyresia blackmoreana Walsingham, 1903. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **39**: 210

TL.: Morocco, Tangier

The one species is *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903) which was recorded during light trapping in the Tarifa area in Andalusia in Southern Spain by the Danish lepidopterist Peder Skou. The records were made during the nights of 12-13-IV-2007 at Punta Paloma (8 km NW Tarifa, 10 m a. s. l.) and 22-24-IV-2007 some 14 km to the east: 10 km NE of Tarifa, 300 m a. s. l. This species came to light in great numbers (hundreds of specimens), and it was by far the most common Lepidoptera species at both localities. *C. blackmoreana* was recently recorded as new to Malta, with a colour photograph of the adult (SEGUNA, 2008). The sudden mass occurrence of this species in South Spain indicates that it may be an invasive species. Voucher specimens are kept in the ZMUC, Denmark and in the collection of Knud Larsen, Denmark.

Actebia (Parexarnis) photophila (Gn., 1852)

Agrotis photophila Guenée, 1852. *Hist. nat. Insectes* (Lépid.), 5: 302

TL.: Algeria, Bône (Annaba)

Agrotis ignipeta Oberthür, 1876. *Étud. ent.*, 1: 45. Established synonymy by CORTI & DRAUDT (1933)

TL.: Algeria

The transfer to the genus *Actebia* Stephens, 1829 follows LAFONTAINE (2004).

The second species is *A. photophila* (Gn., 1852) of which two male specimens were identified in material from: 10 km NE of Tarifa, 300 m a. s. l. during in the nights of 17-18-V-2006. One of the two specimens is pictured in fig. 1. Another male specimen (Morocco, 900 m, Erfoud, Rissani area, 13-14-IV-1989, Zool. Mus. Copenh. Exp. coll. Statens Naturhistoriske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark) is pictured as fig. 2.

Already ZERNY (1935) wrote about this species, that he was stunned by the fact that the species was only recorded from Algeria and the Algerian borders of Morocco until his records from 1933 in the Atlas Mountains, as he here noted the species in great numbers (regular mass occurrences).

Later only few notes have been published (RUNGS, 1981), but the species has also been recorded from the Canary Islands: La Gomera, Tenerife and Fuerteventura (KOBES, 1995, BÁEZ, 1998). B. Schacht shows a Moroccan specimen in his homepage concerning Canary Island species.

The species has been illustrated by CULOT (1909, I: pl. 9, fig. 7) and in WARREN (1909-1913) page 54 and plate 13c, and in the supplement volume (CORTI & DRAUDT, 1933) page 66 and plate 9d. SCHACHT (2008) in his homepage, also shows the underside.

In the Zoological Museum collections in Copenhagen a genital slide preparation of a female of the original Zerny material was made by Michael Fibiger (Morocco, Gr. Atlas, Tachdirt, 2200-2900, 11-19-VII-1933, leg. Zerny, coll. ZMUC. Genit slide. M. Fibiger 1139), and a male from the same museum has been dissected by B. Skule (Morocco, 900 m, Erfoud, Rissani area, 13-14-IV-1989, Zool. Mus. Copenh. Exp. coll. Statens Naturhistoriske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, Genit. slide Bjarne Skule NS 1). Both are preparations in this article (figs. 3, 4 and 5).

In FIBIGER (1990) it is stated that *A. photophila* (Gn.) has to be deleted from the European lists, as its acceptance by HARTIG & HEINICKE (1973) then was considered a mistake. However, the small distance gap between Africa and Europe at Tarifa has proved to be a valuable beachhead for for new species of Lepidoptera moving to the European continent. The original genus has erroneously been mentioned as "*Noctua*" (FIBIGER, 1990).

Description: It is a large and conspicuous species with a wingspan of 45-55 mm. The adult is light greyish brown with an olive tint. The variation is not great (ZERNY, 1935), but darker specimens during mass occurrences have been reported. Antemedian and postmedian lines are well defined but in many specimens not very eye-catching. The reniform stigmata are weakly marked and the orbicular are mostly invisible. Hindwings uniformly light greyish brown. Underside very faintly coloured (whitish) and unmarked.

Genitalia: The male genitalia (fig. 3) is close to *Actebia (Parexarnis) fugax* (Tr., 1825) (FIBIGER, 1990). The differences being the shape of the clasper which is hammerhead shaped in *A. photophila* (in *fugax*: club shaped). The shape of the sacculi are symmetrical on the two sides indicating the correct position of *photophila* belonging to the subgenus *Parexarnis* Boursin, 1946 (as in POOLE, 1989) and not

the subgenus *Protexarnis* McDonnough, [1929] (the latter being identified by the two asymmetrical sacculi) (FIBIGER, 1997). The saccular extensions are close to those of *fugax*. The aedeagus with its single cornutus distally and the central set of small cornuti is shown in fig. 4. The female genitalia (fig. 5) shows as in *fugax* a bisaccate bursa with signa belts.

Distribution: Has now been recorded from the Canary Islands, from Morocco, Algeria, and the Southern tip of Spain where the two fresh specimens may indicate a local population. The two records from Spain are caught at light and labelled "Spain, Andalusia, 17-18-V-2006, 10 km NE of Tarifa, 300 m a. s. l."

Flight time: The species seems to be on the wing from early spring (April) until mid summer (July). The number of broods is uncertain.

Biology: The early stages are unknown, but though the species mostly has been recorded from mountain areas, many findings do not support the status as an exclusive mountain species.

Acknowledgement

We thank Peder Skou, Kirkeby, Denmark for letting us examine the material, and Ole Karsholt, Statens Naturhistoriske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark for information on *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham) and valuable discussions during the writing process. We also wish to thank Dr. Antonio Vives for translating the summary into Spanish.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BÁEZ, M., 1998.– *Mariposas de Canarias*: 216 pp. Ed. Rueda, Alcorcón.
- CORTI, A. & DRAUDT, M., 1933.– Gattung *Rhyacia*. In A. SEITZ (ed.).– *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, **3** Supplement: 63-82. A. Kernen Verlag, Stuttgart.
- FIBIGER, M., 1990.– *Noctuidae Europaea, Noctuinae I*, **1**: 208 pp. Entomological Press, Sorø.
- FIBIGER, M., 1997.– *Noctuidae Europaea, Noctuinae II*, **3**: 418 pp. Entomological Press, Sorø.
- HARTIG, E. & HEINICKE, W., 1973.– Elenco sistematico dei Nottuidi europei (Lepidoptera - Noctuidae).– *Entomologica, Bari*, **9**: 187-214.
- GUENÉE, A., 1852.– Noctuélites. Tome 1. In J. B. A. D. BOISDUVAL & A. GUENÉE.– *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes. Species Général des Lépidoptères*, **5**: 407 pp. Roret, Paris.
- KOBES, L., 1995.– *Parexarnis photophila* Guenée 1852 (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, Noctuinae) als Neunachweis für die Kanarischen Inseln.– *Nachr. ent. Ver. Apollo, N. F.*, **16** (2/3): 313-319.
- LAFONTAINE, J. D., 2004.– Noctuoidea, Noctuidae (part): Noctuinae, Agrotini. In R. W. HODGES ed.– *The Moths of North America including Greenland*, **27**(1): 385 pp. Allen Press, Lawrence.
- POOLE, R. W., 1989.– Noctuidae. In J. B. HEPPNER (ed.).– *Lepidopterorum Catalogus* (New Series), **118**: XII + 1314 pp. E. J. Brill, Leiden.
- RUNGS, C., 1981.– Catalogue raisonné des Lépidoptères du Maroc. Inventaire Faunistique et observations écologiques. Tome II.– *Trav. Inst. scient. chérif. Série Zoologie*, **40**: 221-588.
- SCHACHT, B., 2008.– <http://www.noctuidae.de/page/art/photophila.html>.
- SEGUNA, A., 2008.– *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903), a tortricid moth new to the Maltese fauna (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae).– *SHILAP Revta. lepid.*, **36**(141): 77-78.
- WARREN, W., 1909-1913.– Familie: Noctuidae: 9-444. In A. SEITZ (ed.).– *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, **3**: 511 pp. A. Kernen Verlag, Stuttgart.
- ZERNY, H., 1935.– Die Lepidopterenfauna des Grossen Atlas in Marokko und seiner Randgebiete.– *Mem. Soc. Sci. Nat. Maroc*, **42**: 1-57, pls. 1-2.

B. S.
Brøndsted, 411
DK-3670 Veksø
DINAMARCA / DENMARK

D. N.
Viomosegade, 110
DK-4771 Kalvehave
DINAMARCA / DENMARK

(Recibido para publicación / Received for publication 13-VI-2008)

(Revisado y aceptado / Revised and accepted 12-VII-2008)

