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(Lepidoptera: Geometridae)

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***Epirrhoe alternata* (O. F. Müller, 1764) new to the lepidoptero fauna of the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Geometridae)**

A. Seguna

Abstract

Epirrhoe alternata (O. F. Müller, 1764) is reported for the first time from the Maltese Islands. The genus *Epirrhoe* Hübner, [1825] is also here recorded for the first time from the Maltese Islands. Notes on the distribution, habits of the adult and larval host plant are included. A Maltese name is proposed for the new record.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Geometridae, *Epirrhoe alternata*, Malta.

Epirrhoe alternata (O. F. Müller, 1764), nueva para la lepidoptero fauna de Malta
(Lepidoptera: Geometridae)

Resumen

Epirrhoe alternata (O. F. Müller, 1764) se cita por primera vez para Malta. El género *Epirrhoe* Hübner, [1825] se cita también por primera vez para Malta. Se incluyen datos sobre su distribución, hábitat del adulto y la planta nutricia de la larva. Se propone un nombre maltés para esta nueva cita.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Geometridae, *Epirrhoe alternata*, Malta.

Introduction

The Geometridae is the second largest family of moths, with approximately 2100 described species (SCOBLE, 1999). In Europe the family is represented by more than 900 species (HAUSMANN, 2001) while on the Maltese Islands it is represented by 65 species (SAMMUT, 2000). The genus *Epirrhoe* contains eleven European species, of which nine are distributed all over nearly all of Europe. *Epirrhoe timozzaria* (Costant, 1884) and *E. latevittata* (Turati, 1913) are found only on Sardegna.

Material

MALTA, 1 ♂, Dwejra, l/o Rabat, 14-X-2004, at light, leg A. Seguna.

The species is known from most of Europe, much of North America, Transcaucasia, Mongolia and E. Siberia (PROUT, 1912). The local larval host plant has not been identified but elsewhere on *Galium* species (SKINNER, 1986). On the Maltese Islands, at least four species of *Galium* have been identified, amongst which *Galium aparine* and *murale* are common and widespread. The specimen was collected from near a stand of Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis* Muller) and Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* L.) with an undergrowth of *Galium* sp. On the continent it is said to be double brooded and flies from May to June and again from date July to September. In Southern Europe the species it (partially) trivoltine, with flight period until November.

A. SEGUNA

Both genus and species are new to the lepidoptero fauna of the Maltese Islands. I propose the Maltese name 'Qejjies tal-Harxajja', after the host plant of the larva.

Acknowledgment

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