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Crambidae)

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A new Pyraloid moth for the Maltese Islands. *Evergestis marionalis* Leraut, 2003 (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)

A. Seguna & A. Vives Moreno

Abstract

Evergestis marionalis Leraut, 2003 is recorded for the first time in the Maltese Islands. In Malta the Genus *Evergestis* Hübner, 1825 is represented by three other species: *Evergestis desertalis* (Hübner, [1813]), *Evergestis isatidalis* (Duponchel, 1833) and *Evergestis pechi* (Bethune-Baker, 1885) (SAMMUT, 2000). Notes on the distribution and habits of the adult are included.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Crambidae, *Evergestis marionalis*, Malta.

Un nuevo pirálido para Malta. *Evergestis marionalis* Leraut, 2003 (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)

Resumen

Evergestis marionalis Leraut, 2003 se menciona por primera vez para Malta. En Malta el género *Evergestis* Hübner, 1825 está representado por otras tres especies: *Evergestis desertalis* (Hübner, [1813]), *Evergestis isatidalis* (Duponchel, 1833) y *Evergestis pechi* (Bethune-Baker, 1885) (SAMMUT, 2000). Se incluyen notas sobre la distribución y hábitat del adulto.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Crambidae, *Evergestis marionalis*, Malta.

Introduction

The Pyraloidea comprises about 16,000 described species world-wide (HEPPNER, 1991). In Europe 914 pyraloid species are recorded so far. (NUSS *et al.*, 2004). On the Maltese Islands 147 species are recorded so far (SAMMUT, 2000). The genus *Evergestis* contains 32 European species (GOATER, NUSS & SPEIDEL, 2005). *Evergestis desertalis* (Hübner, [1813]), *Evergestis isatidalis* (Duponchel, 1833), *Evergestis pechi* (Bethune-Baker, 1885) are also known from the Maltese Islands (SAMMUT, 2000). *Evergestis pallidata* (Hufnagel, 1767) has only been recorded by BORG (1932) but its presence in Malta has never been confirmed. Both SAMMUT (1984, 2000) and VALLETTA (1973) regard this record from the Maltese Islands as dubious.

Material Studied

Evergestis marionalis Leraut, 2003

Nouv. Revue. Ent. (N.S.), 20(2): 134-135, figs.4, 7.

L.T.: Spain, Juneda [Lerida].

MALTA, 1 ♀, Dwejra, Rabat, Fort Bingemma, 24-VI-2002 [at light], leg. A. Seguna (in coll. Se-

A. SEGUNA & A. VIVES MORENO

guna, slide preparation 1-04, A. Vives prep.). 1♀, Dwejra, Rabat, Fort Bingemma, 28-VI-2004 [at light], leg. A. Seguna (in coll. Sammut, slide preparation 2-04, A. Vives prep.).

This quite recent new species is known from South-east France, Spain and North Africa: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, (LERAUT, 2003a). The larva is not yet described and the larval host plant is unknown. The adult is somewhat variable especially in the dark-coloured bands of the forewings. The species is on the wing during February and March, and again from July till October, in at least two generations (GOATER, NUSS & SPEIDEL, 2005). It comes readily to light. The habitat from where the species was collected is mostly garrigue with a small stand of Aleppo pines. I propose the Maltese name 'Everestis ta'Marion', after its scientific name.



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We should like to thank our colleague Mr. Paul Sammut of Rabat Malta for his information and constant support and to Mr. Barry Goater of Great Britain for your identification.

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