Middle East Lepidoptera XXIX: Noctuidae Quadrifinae

Taken by G. Ebert and colleagues in Afghanistan.
by E. P. Wiltshire

The following is an annotated list of a number of Noctuidae recently submitted to me for study. For the most part these moths were captured more recently than those taken by German entomologists which I listed in some of my earlier works about Afghanistan, but as one or two examples taken in the previous decade were reincluded in the material now submitted to me, I have mentioned them again. All subfamilies in the group Quadrifinae are represented except the Plusiinae which were sent elsewhere.

Sub-family: JASPIDIINAE

Eublemma arcuinna Hübner ssp. argillacea Tausch.
Structurally this species cannot be separated generically from other Porphyrina species, but its formal transfer can be left till the whole genus is revised.

CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN: Koh-i-Baba (south side) — Deh Zangi, 2500 m, 1 ex., vi-vii. 63, leg. Hammer, coll. Ebert; Panjao, 2650 m, 1 ex., 20—22. vii. 66, leg. Ebert.

SOUTH-EASTERN AFGHANISTAN: Safed-Koh (south side), Shahidan, 2700 m, 1 ex., 21. vi. 66, leg. Ebert; Kotkai, 2350 m, leg. Müller, 2 exs., 1967.

Porphyrina ostrina Hübner

As in a previous collection from Afghanistan which I have studied, the series of this widespread species contains, in addition to normal forms with variable coloration and span of 18—20 mm, other larger forms of rather dull, suffused dark coloration and a span of 24—25 mm, which I have seen from no other country. The two forms fly at the same season, that is in the midsummer months. At lower altitudes the smaller alone is found, but both occur at the higher. Apart from size, the two forms appear identical in structure. Allowing for the already known variability of the smaller, typical form, their pattern-elements appear identical. I refrain from giving the larger form a special name, not considering it specifically distinct, and its relationship with the smaller being obscure.

CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN: Koh-i-Baba (south side), Panjao, 2650 m, 1 ex. of large form, 20—22. vii. 66, leg. Ebert; Paghman Mts., 2200 m, 1 ex. of large form, 20—22. vii. 63, leg. Kasy & Vartian.

EASTERN AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 1 ex. of small form ab. aestivalis Guen., coll. Ebert; Kabul-gorge, 22 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ex. of small form, ab. aestivalis Guen., 5—12. vii. 66, leg. Amsel; Salang-pass (north side), Khinjan, 2100 m, 1 small form of normal colouring, 5—11. vii. 66, leg. Amsel.

SOUTH-EASTERN AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Kotkai, 2350 m, 1 ex., large form, 14.—27. vi. 1966, leg. Ebert.

Porphyrina albida Dup. subsp. compuncta Led. stat. nov.

As the genitalia of albida f. gratissima Staudinger from the Atlas Mts., are identical with those of compuncta Led. from the Middle East, and also with those of albida f. peralba Schaw. from Iraq, there appears no reason to hesitate longer in placing Lederer’s name as a race
or subspecies of that of Duponchel, though the types of neither have been investigated. The series from Afghanistan is very variable; the central brown shade in the most bleached forms is incomplete, yet not so much as in *peralba*; it usually is fairly straight and passes proximally of the two black cell spots, but in the one fine example of ab. *rufata* Warren it is angled and passes through them.


*Porphyria leucota* Hampson

The short series shows great variation in size, apparently unrelated to season. The two 1966 examples had spans of respectively 14 & 21 mm. The Sarobi example was less grey clouded and had a yellowish tinge.


*Porphyria pannonica* Freyer

**EASTERN AFGHANISTAN:** Salang Pass (N.-Side), 2100 m., 1 ♀ (Prep. WK. 9), 5—11. vii. 1966, Ebert leg.

*Porphyria chlorotica* Led.


*Porphyria polygramma* Dup.

**CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN:** Koh-i-Baba (south side), Panjao, 2650 m., 1 ex., 20—22. vii. 1966, leg. G. Ebert (a very pale example with scanty markings).

*Porphyria pallidula* H. S.

**EASTERN AFGHANISTAN:** Sarobi, 1100 m., 2 exs., 21. v. 1957, leg. Ebert.

*Porphyria straminea* Staudinger

**EASTERN AFGHANISTAN:** Sarobi, 1100 m., 1 ♀, Prep. WK. 6, 2. vii. 1962, leg. Hammer, coll. G. Ebert.

*Porphyria conistrota* Hampson


**Subfamily: NYCTEOLINAE**

*Earias insulana* Boisd.


*Earias pudicana* Staudinger


*Maurilia iconica* Walker


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Subfamily: **EUTELIANAE**

Phlegetonia delatrix Guenee

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 1 ex., 12. x. 1962, leg. HAMMER, coll. EBERT.

*Eutelia adulatrix* HUBN.

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 2 ex., s., 15. v. 1962 & 29. ix. 63, leg. HAMMER, coll. EBERT.

Subfamily: **STYCTOPERINAE**

Lophoptera illucida WALKER

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 4 exs., including ♀ Prep. WK. 5, 2—10. v. 1962, leg. HAMMER. The series includes 1 ex ab. *illucidana* STRAND.

Subfamily: **CATOCALINAE**

Mormonia neonympha HUBN. ab. *cobaerens* SCHULTZE

E. AFGHANISTAN: Kabul Gorge, 22 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ex., 26. vi. 1966, leg. AMSEL & EBERT.

*Ephesia flavescens* HAMPSON

S. E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Korkai, 2350 m, 1 ♀ (Prep. WK. 2) & 1 ♀, 14—23. vi. 1966, leg. EBERT.

*Motis virbia* STOLL

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 1 ex., 27. x. 1962, leg. HAMMER, coll. EBERT.

Minicia himaculata OSTH. subsp. near *pulchrior* WILTS.

A longer series may well show that this form represents a good subspecies, as big as *pulchrior* but of a more ochreous coloration; however, at present only one example is at present available.

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 1 ♀, 24. iii. 1963, leg. HAMMER, coll. EBERT.

*Clytie syriaca* BUGN.

E. AFGHANISTAN: Kabul Gorge, 22 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ♀, 5—12. vi. 1966, leg. EBERT.

*Clytie devia* SWINHOE

E. AFGHANISTAN: Kabul Gorge, 22 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ♀, 5—15. vi. 1966, leg. H. G. AMSEL.

*Pericyma* (subg. *Alamis*) *umbrina* (GUENE)

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 7 ♀, 24. v. 1962 (2 exs.), 25. v. 62 (2 exs.), 2. v. 64, 1. xi. 62, & 31. x. 63, leg. HAMMER, coll. EBERT. Two of the variable series are ab. *albicincta* GUENE.

*Pericyma squalets* LED.

S. W. AFGHANISTAN: Darweshan, Registan desert, 500 m, 18. v. 57, leg. EBERT.

*Heteropalpia* (*Cortyta*) *vetusta* (WALKER)

S. W. AFGHANISTAN: in addition to the example from Darweshan recorded in my 1961 work, there is a further example from Lashkar Gah (Dasht plain), 500 m, 14. v. 1957, leg. EBERT.

*Gnamptonyx vilis* WALKER.

E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 1 ♂ & 3 ♀, 19. viii. 57 & 29. vii. 62, leg. EBERT and HAMMER.
S.-E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (s. side), Kotkai, 2350 m, 14—23. vi. 66, 1 ♂, leg. EBERT

**Drasteria caucasica** (Kol.)

N. E. AFGHANISTAN: Badakhshan, Barak, 1600 m, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1. viii. & 10. vii. 1957, leg. EBERT.

**Drasteria flexuosa** (MEN.)

CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN: Koh-i-Baba (south-side), Shah-tu pass, 3000 m, 1 ♂, 17—18. vii. 1966, leg. EBERT.

E. AFGHANISTAN: Kabul Gorge, 22 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ♂ & 1 ♀, 5—12. vii. 66, leg. EBERT.

**Drasteria cailino** (LEF.)

E. AFGHANISTAN: Kabul Gorge, 22 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ex., 5—12. vi. 66, leg. Amsel.

Subfamily: **OTHREINAE**

*Anomis sabulifera* Gn.


S.-E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Kotkai, 2350 m, 1 ex., leg. Ebert.

*Anomis mesogona* Walker


*Hypersypnoides (?) submargiata* Walker

S.-E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh, (south side), Shahidan, 2700 m, 1 ♀, 21. vii. 66, leg. Ebert. According to Berio, *submargiata* cannot be distinguished superficially from *astrigera* Butler, and as the one example available is a female, whose structures Berio did not illustrate in his and Fletcher’s Revision (1958), it remains doubtful which of the two this example is. It has been compared with the type of *astrigera* and matches it well.

*Attonda adspersa* Felder


*Lygephila lusoria* (L.)

E. AFGHANISTAN: Kabul Gorge, 23 km east of Kabul, 1650 m, 1 ex., 5—12. vii. 66, leg. Ebert. The form is smaller than the European but otherwise not unlike it, and certainly closer in colouring to the typical than to the forms in Iran.

*Lygephila craccae* Schiff.

S.-W. AFGHANISTAN: Kandahar, 950 m, 1 ex., 10. v. 57, leg. Ebert.

CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN: Koh-i-Baba (south side), Panjao, 1650 m, 1 ex., 20—22. vii. 66, leg. Ebert.

Plecoptera reflexa GUENEE


S.-E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Kotkai, 2350 m, 1 ex., 26. vii. 67 & 1 ex. 2 viii. 67, leg. Ebert.

Acantholipes regularis HÜBNER


Acantholipes circumdata WALKER


Acantholipes regulatrix Wiltshire 1961


Anumeta cestina STAUDINGER

SOUTH-WEST AFGHANISTAN: Arghandab Dam, 35 km north of Kandahar, 1 ex., 23. v. 1957, leg. G. Ebert.

Drasteriodes limata (CHRISTOPH)


Armada dentata STAUDINGER


S. W. AFGHANISTAN: Registan desert, 500 m, 1 ex., 18. v. 1957, leg. G. Ebert. This form is ab. afghana HAMPSON, (described as a distinct species of Acrobyla!) in which the central band is divided into two closely adjacent sectors just below the origin of nervure 2 on the fore-wing.) HAMPSON’s type in the British Museum has been examined and its genitalia are identical with those of typical dentata.

Tarachephia cloio (STAUDINGER)

N. W. AFGHANISTAN: Shibarghan, 400 m, 1 ex., 22. v. 1956, leg. Amsel.

S. W. AFGHANISTAN: Registan desert, 500 m, 1 ex., 18. v. 1957, leg. Ebert.

Tarachephia hueberi (ERSHOV)

N. W. AFGHANISTAN: Herat, 970 m, 1 ex., 5. v. 1956, leg. H. G. Amsel.

S. W AFGHANISTAN: Registan desert, Darweshan 500 m, 1 ex., 18. v. 1957; Arghandab Dam, 1150 m, 1 ex., 23. v. 1957, both leg. G. Ebert.

Tarachephia panaceorum (MEN.)


Perciana dentatus HAMPSON (Textfig. 1)

This strikingly marked and little known species has the male more monotonously coloured on the fore-wing than the female, in which the very peculiar jutting distal edge of the median band is bordered with white clouds. At first glance one would take the moth for a Cryphia, if one overlooks the sickle-like upturned palps. Hitherto only known from N. India, it remains to be seen whether it is found in Afghanistan further west and further north. The genitalia are unlike those of the Hypeninae and are illustrated herewith in fig. 1.
Fig. 1. *Perciana dentatus* Hampson male genitalia.

S. E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Kotkai, 2350 m, 2 ♂♂ (Prep. WK. 3) & 1 ♀, 14—23. vi. 1966, leg. G. Ebert.

*Zethes nemea* Brandt


Sub-Family: *HYPENINAE*

*Dichromia* prob. *opulenta* Alph.

Pending a revision of this genus it is not possible to be sure about this determination. They are slightly larger than the Central Asia *opulenta* forms but similarly marked. They come close to *amica* Butler in size but are more brightly marked. These two species might be conspecific. The species *quadralis* Walker is also known from Afghanistan (Paghman Mts.) but is larger, with a more curving costa, than these examples which come both from the Paghman Mts., and the Safed Koh.

E. AFGHANISTAN: Paghman Mts., 2500 m, 3 exs., 20. vi. 1941, leg. Fred Brandt;


*Nodaria externalis* Guenee

S. E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Kotkai, 2350 m, 1 ♀, 14—25. vi. 1966, leg. G. Ebert.

*Hypena extensalis* Gn.

S. E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Shahidan, 2700 m, 1 ex., 21. vi. 66, leg. Ebert.

*Rhynchina cramboides* Butler

S. E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Shahidan, 2700 m, 1 ex., 21. vi. 66, leg. Ebert.

*Rhynchina plusioides* Butler

S. E. AFGHANISTAN: Safed Koh (south side), Shahidan, 2700 m, 3 exs., 21. vi. 66, leg. Ebert.

*Rhynchodontodes revolutalis* Z.

N. W. AFGHANISTAN: Herat, 970 m, 15. iv. 1956, 1 ex., 5. v. 1956, 2 ex., & 1 ex., 5. vi. 1956, leg. H. G. Amsel; E. AFGHANISTAN: Sarobi, 1100 m, 3 exs., ab. *transcaspica* Brandt,

**Zusammenfassung**

Quadrifine Noctuiden aus Afghanistan


**REFERENCES**


WILTSCHIRE, E. P., 1967: id. Middle East Lepidoptera XX. A third contribution to the fauna of Afghanistan. (ibidem, 26, 3 137—169)