

Middle East Lepidoptera: XXXI¹⁾
A new *Clytie* Species, a new *Metoponrhis* Subspecies,
and other Noctuid Records from the Sudan

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(With plate IV and 2 figures)

During the past ten years, I have received for study and determination from the Zoologischen Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates a number of Sudanese Noctuidae, nearly all Quadrifinae, and have already published several description of new taxa from this material, for whose capture science is indebted to Dr. R. Remane.

The present article for the first time lists all the determinations made, constituting a considerable contribution to the knowledge of the fauna of the Sudan, and includes a description of a further species new to science, *Clytie micra* sp. n., an apparently endemic Sudanese member of a Catocaline genus characteristic of the Middle East, oligophagous (as far as known) on tamarisk, (cf. Wiltshire 1939, 1944). It also includes the description of a new subspecies of *Metoponrhis marginata* Hampson, a very rare species hitherto only known from Ceylon: subsp. *remanei* nova.

In the following list I give the citations of my own previous descriptions from this material.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR LOCALITIES

Erk. = Kassala Province, Erkowit, 1000—1300 m.

Hud. = Ed Damer, Hudeiba.

Med. = Blue Nile Province, Wad Medani.

P. S. = Port Sudan.

FAMILY NOCTUIDAE

Sub-family: **Zenobiinae.**

Aegle exsiccata (Warren). Hud. 25. I. 62, 13.—15. II. 62, 17. u. 28. V. 62, 13 ♂♂ (Pr. WM. 178) & 8 ♀♀.

¹⁾ The previous article in this taxonomic series was XXX (1969) (see References at end of article).

Subfamily Jaspidiinae

Metachrostis snelleni (Wallengren) (det. Berio) 2♂♂ 1♀ Erk. 20 & 30. VI. 62. New for Africa.

Porphyrinia bifasciata Moore. 1♀ Hud. 30. III. 62; 1♂ Erk. 19. IV. 62.

Porphyrinia bulla Swinhoe. 1♂ (Pr. WM. 178) Erk. 2 VII. 62.

Porphyrinia ecthaemata Hampson. 2♀♀ Hud. 8. IV. 62, 8. VII. 62.

Porphyrinia kruegeri Wiltshire 1970. 12♂♂ 8♀♀ Erk. 21. V. 62; 19.—30. VI. 62 & 2. VII. 62 (Pr. WM. 195); Hud. 1♀ 29. III. 62.

Porphyrinia ochricosta Hampson. 1♂ 1♀ Med. 2. u. 3. VIII. 62 (WM. 167); 2♀♀ Erk. 15. II. u. 23. IV. 62.

Porphyrinia ragusana Freyer 2♂♂ Med. 2. u. 3. VIII. 62.

Porphyrinia savoi Berio (det. Berio). 1♂ Med. 2. VIII. 62.

Porphyrinia seminivea Hampson. 1♂ Erk. 18. IV. 62.

Autoba gayneri Rothsch. 8♂♂ 7♀♀ Hud. 10.—16. XI. 61; 8. I. 62; 1. II. 62, 13. V. 62; 8. u. 12. VIII. 62; 2♂♂ 4♀♀ Erk. 21.—30. VI. 62; 1♂ Aligab 3. X. 61.

Pseudozarba bipartita (Stgr.) 5♂♂ 7♀♀ Hud. (Pr. WM 197) 31. VII.—8. VIII. 62; 1♀ Erk. (Pr. WM. 202) 28. VI. 62; 1♀ Med. 2. VIII. 62.

Pseudozarba morosa Wiltshire 1970. 3♂♂ 15♀♀ Hud. (Pr. WM. 201) 9. III. 62; 17. V. 62; 1—16. VIII. 62; Med. 1♂ (Prep. 1300) 2. VII. & 1♀ (Prep. WM 201) 2. VIII. 62.

Acontia (Tarache) apatelia Swinhoe. (det. Berio). 28♂♂ 63♀♀ (Pr. WM. 161) Hud. 23. III. 62; 12. V. 62; 25. VII. 62; 31. VII. 62; 6.—9. VIII. 62; 3♂♂ 1♀ Med. 2. u. 3. VIII. 62.

Acontia (Tarache) audeoudi Brandt. 12♂♂ 13♀♀ Erk. 20. bis 30. VI. 62; 1. u. 2. VII. 62. New for Afrika.

Acontia (Tarache) opalinoide Guenée. 2♂♂ (WM. 198) Med. 2. u. 3. VII. 62.

Acontia (Tarache) porphyrea Butler 4♂♂ (WM. 168) 3♀♀ 2. u. 3. VIII. 1962.

Subfamily Westermanniinae

Earias insulana B. 24♂♂ 41♀♀ Hud. 12. u. 16. XII. 61; 20. u. 25. I. 62; 13. u. 26. II. 62; 4., 6., 18. III. 62; 12. u. 24. IV. 62; 3., 12., 24. V. 62; 9. u. 14. VIII. 62; 14.—21. XI. 62; 1♂ Erk. 21. VI. 62.

Earias waterstoni Wiltshire 1947. 12♂♂ 15♀♀ Hud. (WM. 225, 227, 228). 18. u. 30. XI. 62; 21.—31. XII. 61; 5.—7., 24. I. 62; 13. u. 14. II. 62; 1.—4., 16.—25. III. 62; 7. IV. 62; 3. u. 17. V. 62; 12. VIII. 62.

Subfamily Catocalinae

Crypsotidia conifera Hampson. Hud. 14. III. 62. The relationship of this form with the Palestinian species *maculifera* Staudinger (Iris X, 287, Pl. 4, f. 22 [1897].) cannot at present be ascertained. Though dissimilar they are perhaps conspecific, *conifera* being paler and brighter than *maculifera*.

Crypsotidia mesosema Hampson 1 ♂ Hud. 24. V. 62.

Crypsotidia wollastoni Rothsch. 3 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ Med. 2. VIII. 62; 1 ♀ Hud. 8. VIII. 62.

Crypsotidia wollastoni Rothsch. 3 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ Med. 2. VIII. 62; 1 ♀ Hud. 8. VIII. 62.

Hypotacha isthmigera Wiltshire 1968. ♂ Hud. 12. VII. 62 (Prep. WM. 206) (ab. *divisa* Wiltshire); ♂, Med. 2. VIII. 62 (ab. *brunnea* Wiltshire) (Prep. 1536/WM. 246); ♂, Med. 2. VIII. 62 (ab. *striata* Wiltshire) (Prep. WM. 244); 5 ♀♀, Med. 2. VIII. 62 (Prep. WM. 245); (Prep. 1537/WM. 249).

Hypotacha ochribasalis Hampson 3 ♂♂ Erk. 22., 23., 27. VI. 62.

Ulotrichopus tinctipennis Hampson 3 ♂♂ Hud. 19. XII. 61; 18. I. 62, 5. III. 62.

Grammodes euclidioides Gn. subsp. *postfumida* Wiltshire 1970 1 ♂ Med. 3. VIII. 62.

Clytie micra sp. nova (Plate IV figs. 1, 2: ♂ genit. text fig. 1)

Smaller than all known congeners except *Hypoglaucitis benenotata* Warren (Which has not hitherto been included in *Clytie* but is in fact hardly separable). From *benenotata* it can be distinguished at once by the almost straight course of the distal border of the fore-wing median area, this border being strongly angled in that species. The male of the new species is also characterised by the conspicuous dark-brown filled reniform stigma: in both sexes the orbicular stigma is a fine dark brown point.

♂: Fore-wing, ochreous, sprinkled with grey except along the costa, where there is a broad straw-coloured streak to just beyond the post-median fascia. The median area is concolorous with the rest and is bordered by paler ante- and post-median fasciae the former being narrower and less strongly marked. Orbicular stigma, a fine dark brown point; reniform stigma, large, roughly crescent-shaped, filled with dark brown and paler-edged. A pale line runs along the median nervure below the orbicular and unites with the border of the reniform. Post-median fascia, slightly bent near the costa and on nervure 4. Submarginal line,

more wavy, pale, with a fuscous proximal edging at the costa and two small dark proximal wedges between nervures 6, 7, & 8. A small, oblique dark apical streak is the only mark in the pure ochreousgrey marginal field. Termen, a pale wavy line proximally edged with brown.

Hind-wing, pale grey, somewhat infused with darker grey on the distal third, forming a wide border which is narrower towards the anal angle and bisected by a pale vague submarginal line crossed by the darker grey nervures.

Under-side: fore-wing, ochreous, with a vague, broad brownish apical and submarginal shade, and only the slightest brown trace of the reniform stigma; hind-wing, pale ochreouswhite, slightly brown-infused towards costa and apex. Termen of both wings, pale brown.

♀: Fore-wing, as in ♂, but lacking the pale costal area and pale medial line: also without the dark brown filling of the reniform stigma. Moreover, the reniform stigma is reduced to resemble that of most other *Clytie* species (pale, bipartite, small, faint) not enlarged and crescent-shaped as in the ♂. The ochreous ante- and post-median fasciae remain, however, clearly delineated, while the finer submarginal line and its accompanying dark markings are less well delineated.

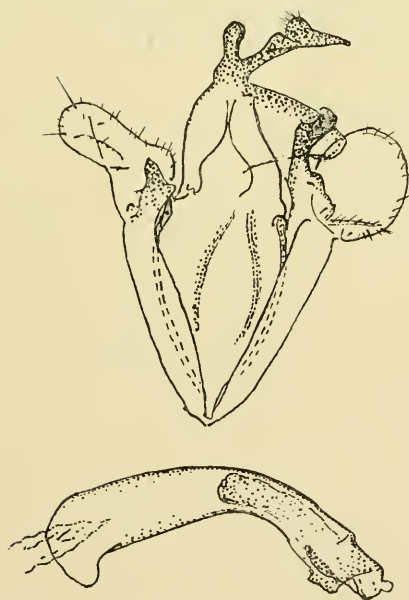


Fig. 1: *Clytie micra* sp. n. ♂ genitalia.

Hind-wing, and under-side both wings, as in ♂.

Span: 25—26 mm.

♂ genitalia: uncus, vertically bifid, in form nearest to that of *C. illunaris* Hübner, with the lower limb having two dorsal swellings, not one as in *illunaris*. Valves, strongly assymmetrical, as in most *Clytie*, the harpe of the right valve being larger than that of the left. (In some *Clytie* species, as in *Hypoglaucitis benenotata*, the reverse is the case.) Valves, two membranous, sub-oval flaps, the left appearing less circular than the right. Left harpe, a strongly sclerotised, short, blunt hook, not projecting beyond the border of the valve: right harpe, a strongly sclerotised twisted finger, projecting well above the costa of the right valve. Aedeagus, strongly sclerotised, massive, at least equal in length to the combined tegumen and vinculum, narrowest at 2/3 of its length, and bent there. Vesica of aedeagus finely spiculate, without cornutus.

Holotype ♂ (Prep. WM. 254): Sudan, Ed Damer, Hudeiba, 30. IV. 1962, leg. R. Remane (Staatslg. München.)

Allotype ♀: same data but 4. VI. 62.

Clytie haifae Hab. 12♂♂, 8♀♀, Hud. 28. II.—27. IV. u. 8. VI. bis 25. VII., 1♂ Med. 3. VIII. 62.

Pericyma (Alamis) atrifusa Hampson 3♂♂ 2♀♀ Med. 2. u. 3. VIII. 62 (Prep. WM. 163); 3♂♂ 1♀ Hud. 6. VIII. 62; 9. VIII. 62; 16. VIII. 62.

Heteropalpia lilliae Berio 2♂♂ 1♀ Med. 2. VIII. 62 (Prep. WM. 179); 16♂♂ 11♀♀ Hud. 11. X. 61; 23. XII. 61 (Prep. WM. 225); 17. I. 62; 28. II. 62; 14.—21. VII. 62; 5.—17. VIII. 62.

Tyroca dispar (Püng.) **puengeleri** Wiltshire 1970. Erk. ♂, 20. VI. 62 (Prep. WM. 180) Holotype, ♀ 19. VI. 62 (Prep. WM. 180) Allotype; ♂ 30. VI. 62 (WM. 207); ♀ 19. VI. 62 (WM. 191); 4♂♂ 40♀♀ 19.—30. VI. 62 Paratypes.

Tyroca fasciolata (Warren) 81♂♂ 145♀♀ Hud. XII. 61—V. 62;

Gnamptonyx vilis Walker 14♂♂ 25♀♀ Erk. 19 IV.—3. VII. 62 (Prep. WM. 190); 41♂♂ 161♀♀ Hud., 7.—13. XII. 61; II.—VIII. 62.

Subfamily: Othreinae

Africalpe vagabunda Swinhoe 1♂ P.S., 19. I. 62. New for Africa.

Lyncestis amphix Cramer 1♂ Hud. 17.VII.62. New for Africa.

Metoponrhis marginata (Hampson) **remanei** subsp. nova (Plate IV fig. 3, ♂ genit. text fig. 2).

Having described *marginata* as a *Barasa* in 1898 (Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. **11**, 451) Hampson transferred the species to *Metoponrhis* in his MS which the British Museum arrangement has followed; but the transfer does not appear yet to have been published: (**stat. nov.**)

The Sudanese form is smaller and darker than the typical but genitaliter close enough to justify considering provisionally only a subspecies, despite the great difference and distance separating the localities, the type locality being Ceylon. It is a rare, little known species, of which the only examples in collections appear to be the two males, the Ceylon and Sudan types.

Fore-wing, rather square-shaped, costa more arched than in most *Metoponrhis*, dull ochreous brown, almost entirely covered with slate-grey, and marked with black as follows: a costal suffusion, reaching $2/3$: a double ante-median fascia: an oval dark-centred orbicular stigma: a smaller claviform stigma: the proximal edge only of the reniform stigma, the rest of which is more lightly outlined: and termen, fine and interrupted at the nervures. The post-median fascia is paler and fainter than the ante-

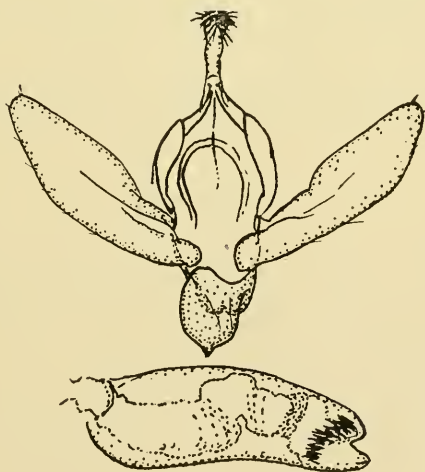


Fig. 2: *Metoponrhis marginata remanei* subsp. n. ♂ genitalia.

median. The basal area is darker grey than the rest of the forewing.

Hind-wing, white, with a broad black marginal band becoming fainter and narrower towards the anal corner.

Span: 18 mm.

Male genitalia: the simple, oval valves and thick, slightly curved aedaeagus permit the species to stand fairly naturally in *Metoponrhis*, although the spatulate, setose, uncus is distinctive: the arch-like, more developed transtilla and the tapering tegumen are also unlike those of the rest of the genus. The cornuti of *remanei* appear slightly larger and better separated than those of the typical *marginata*, otherwise the tail-parts correspond well, allowing for differences in preparation.

Holotype ♂ (Prep. WM. 119): Sudan, Blue Nile Province, Wad Medani, 4. VII. 62, leg. Remane, Staatslg. München.

Acrobyla kneuckeri Rebel 1♂ Hud., 16. III. 62.

Asplenian melanodonta Hampson subsp. **rubrescens** Hampson **comb. nov.** 1♂ Med. 2. VIII. 62 (Prep. WM. 158); 22♂♂ 96♀♀ Hud. 25. III., 24. VI. 62; 17. VII. 62; 26. u. 27. VII. 62; 8.—14. VIII. 62.

Plectoptera stuhlmanni Pag. 1♀ Med. 3. VIII. 62.

Rhynchina inornata Butler f. *xylina* Swinhoe 1♂ 1♀ Hud., 19. VII. 62. New for Africa.

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Tafel IV



EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV

Fig. 1: *Clytie micra* sp. n. ♂. (Sudan). (×2)

Fig. 2: *Clytie micra* sp. n. ♀. (Sudan). (×2)

Fig. 3: *Metoponthis marginata remanei* subsp. n. ♂. (Sudan). (×3)