

Dichagyris imperator (A. BANG-HAAS, 1912)
(= *Ochropleura alcarriensis* CALLE & AGENJO, 1981,
SYN. NOV.) in Europe (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Noctuinae)

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Abstract

Ochropleura alcarriensis CALLE & AGENJO, 1981 described from Spain is synonymized with *Dichagyris imperator* (A. BANG-HAAS, 1912). The mentioned records represent the first specimens of *D. imperator* (A. B.-H) in Europe – and in Libya. An imago and genitalia of both sexes are figured. The European genera in the former genus *Ochropleura* HÜBNER, [1821] are stated.

Zusammenfassung

Ochropleura alcarriensis CALLE & AGENJO, 1981, von Spanien beschrieben ist Synonym von *Dichagyris imperator* (A. BANG-HAAS, 1912). Die hier genannten Funde von *D. imperator* (A.B.-H.) sind der erste Nachweis für Europa – und Libya. Ein Imago und die Genitalien von beiden Geschlechter sind abgebildet. Die europäischen Gattungen in der früheren Gattung *Ochropleura* HÜBNER, [1821] sind dargestellt.

The noctuid moth *Ochropleura alcarriensis* CALLE & AGENJO, 1981 was described on the basis of two, somewhat worn specimens collected in Trillo, Guadalajara, 732 m. by J. L. YELA : ♂ (holotype) 2.IX.1972, ♀ (paratype) 29.VIII.1972. In the original description, comparisons were made with *Dichagyris melanura* (KOLLAR, 1846), but not with other members of *Ochropleura* s. lat. from the Mediterranean subregion.

We have now examined a photograph of the genitalia of the male holotype of *O. alcarriensis* (the preparation in question, unfortunately, is somewhat damaged) as well as the genitalia (fig. 1-4) of additional specimens of both sexes recently collected in Spain by J. L. YELA. This examination has confirmed the initial suspicion of M. FIBIGER and A. MOBERG, that *O. alcarriensis* is a junior synonym of *Dichagyris imperator* (A. BANG-HAAS, 1912), type locality : Biskra, Algeria, Syn. Nov. We believe the identity of the BANG-HAAS taxon is perfectly clear from his original description, and we



Fig. 1. Male genitalia of the holotype of *Ochropleura alcarriensis* CALLE & AGENJO, 1981 from Spain, Guadalajara, Trillo, 732 m, 2.IX.1972 leg. J. L. Yela, coll. J. A. CALLE (H. HACKER phot.).



Fig. 2. Male genitalia of *Dichagyris imperator* (A. BANG-HAAS, 1912) Marocco mer. Tinerkir, 1350 m., 6.-8.V. 1973 leg. BENDER, coll. Zool. Staatssamml. München. Prep. HACKER N. 2087 (H. HACKER phot.).

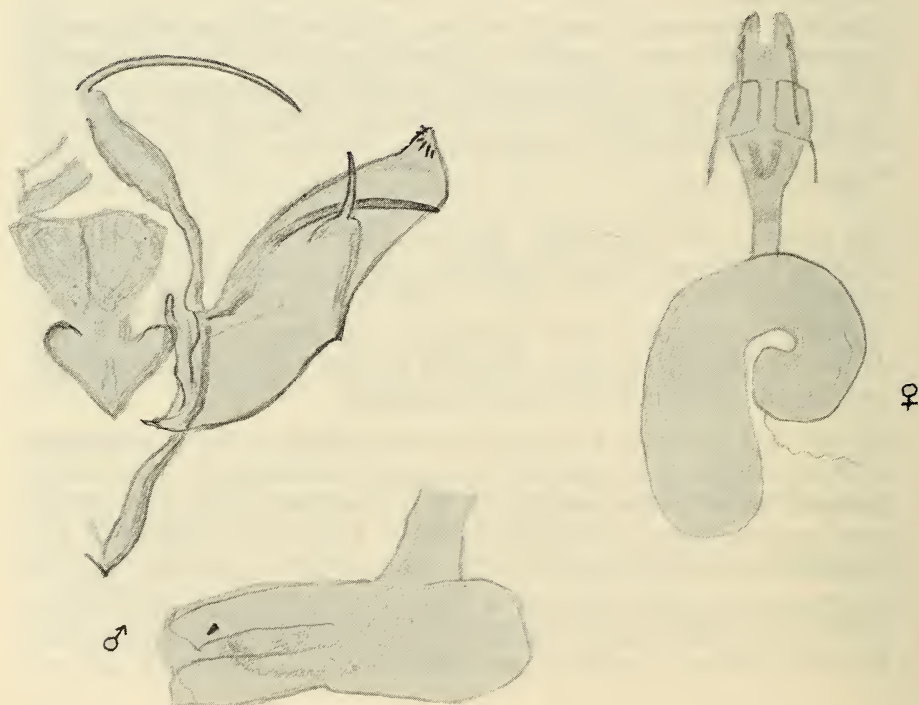


Fig. 3. Male and female genitalia of *Dichagyris imperator* (A. B.-H.) from Spain, Guadalajara (J. L. YELA del.). ♂: Boquilla de Gualda/Gualda, Guadalajara, 698 m., 12.VIII.1980. leg. & coll. J. L. YELA. ♀: Gargoles de Abajo, Guadalajara, 817 m., 15.VIII.1982. leg. J. L. YELA.

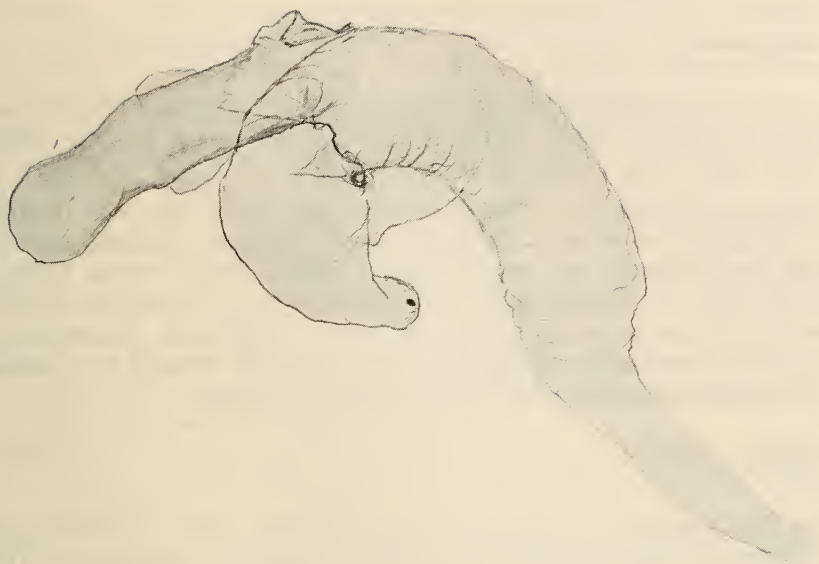


Fig. 4. Everted vesica of *D. imperator* (A. B.-H.) from Libya (A. MOBERG del.).



Fig. 5. *Dichagyris imperator* (A. B.-H.) Libya, Gharian, Wadi El Hira, 6.V.1983 leg. U. SENECA, coll. M. Fibiger (D. WILSON phot.).

have at our disposal a series of North African specimens (Fig. 5) conforming with this description.

Distribution

D. imperator is distributed in SW Asia (WILTSHIRE, 1948) and North Africa : Morocco (RUNGS, 1981), Algeria, Egypt (Sinai) (CORTI & DRAUDT, 1933), Libya (first record : Gharian, Wadi El Hira, 5 specimens, May 1983, U. SENECA, Denmark leg.). The species has not previously been recorded from Europe, but in addition to the above mentioned C-Spanish ones, we have been informed of a record from SE Spain, Sierra Nevada, 1100 m, 11.VII.1973 (Z. VARGA, pers. comm.), and CALLE & DEL SAZ (1981) records the species from Tragacete (Cuenca) 13.VIII.1978, leg. & coll. A. DEL SAZ. The spanish populations are not sufficiently different for regarding as a subspecies ; they belong to the nominate subspecies.

Biology

The flight period of *D. imperator* is long, it has been found from April to July and again in August and September. Whether it has two generations, or (like several other noctuids) has a summerdiapause remains unknown.

The caterpillar hibernates and has been found on *Zygophyllum* sp. (*Zygophyllaceae*) in April (CORTI & DRAUDT, 1933).

Taxonomy

The European members of the genus *Ochropleura* HÜBNER, [1821] sensu HARTIG & HEINICKE (1973) are now segregated into three genera, *Ochropleura*, *Actebia* STEPHENS, 1829 and *Dichagyris* LEDERER, 1857 (including *Yigoga* NYE, 1975 (= *Ogygia* HÜBNER, [1821]) and *Stenosomides* STRAND, 1942 as subgenera) in accordance with results of recent studies on this complex by J. D. LAFONTAINE (FIBIGER & SVENDSEN, 1984).

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