Lepidoptera of Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire

By R. M. Palmer
(2 Glenholme Gardens, Dyce, Aberdeen)

General Introduction

It is my intention to issue this account in 3 parts. Part 1 includes the superfamilies Hesperioidea, Papilionoidea, Bombycoidea, Sphingoidea, Notodontoidea and Noctuoidea; part 2 will deal with the Alucitoidea, Pyraloidea and Geometroidea; and part 3 will contain all the remaining superfamilies. The nomenclature throughout is that of Kloet and Hincks, Check List, 2nd Edition, revised, 1972.

Many of the records given here are based on observations made since 1968, and only with the less common species have I included records prior to that. Records for the two counties are separated paragraphically except for species which are common in both counties. Aberdeenshire records are preceded by the letter A, those for Kincardineshire by the letter K, and within this format records are generally arranged chronologically. So far as is known all records refer to feral imagines unless otherwise stated, and in the case of larvae I have whenever possible cited the natural foodplants upon which these have been found in the two counties. All records and statements are those of the compiler unless otherwise indicated.

In the preparation of this account I have received much assistance from Lepidopterists who have generously provided me with records. The initials of these contributors appear after their records throughout the main body of the work and their names in full in the list of acknowledgements.

Part 1

Hesperioidea, Papilionoidea, Bombycoidea, Sphingoidea, Notodontoidea and Noctuoidea

Introduction

To my knowledge the total number of species in these superfamilies listed to date for the two counties is 247. 14 of these species — including 4 because they were not recognised as distinct — are unrecorded by any of the authors of the works in the list of references cited below.

I have purposely excluded from the main body of the account 41 species of the total of 247, the reason being that there are no recent records for these. However, I have briefly listed these 41 hereunder in two groups, and hope in due course to rediscover at least some of those in the first group.

(i) Those which were probably formerly resident here and may still persist: — Pararge aegeria L., Eriogaster lanestris L., Leucoma salicis L., Setina irrorella L., Diaphora mendica Clerck, Agrotis clavis Hufn., Rhyacia simulans Hufn., Peri-


I have thought it unnecessary to cite the literature for all of the widespread and common species and have referred to this only if the information therein differs greatly from the present status of those species.

A field record without date signifies the occurrence of a species at that locality with some regularity during the period 1968-73 inclusive, except in the case of the Rothamsted trap at Banchory where all the records are for 1973.

Abbreviations: — Banchory R. T. refers to the Rothamsted trap operated by the Natural Environment Research Council, Hill of Brathens, Banchory. This trap has been in operation since 2.iv.1973 and I have identified all the macrolepidoptera so far taken there. N.N.R. = National Nature Reserve

Acknowledgements: — I should like to thank the organisers of the Rothamsted Insect Survey, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts., for permission to use the information from their Banchory trap, also Dr B. Mitchell and Dr N. Bayfield of N.E.R.C., and Mr J. Forster of the Nature Conservancy for their help and co-operation in running the trap.

I am greatly indebted to the following for providing me with records and information: — Mr D. Barbour, Dr N. Bayfield, Mr G. Downie, Mr A. Duncan, Mr J. Forster, Mr N. Gill, Mr D. Gurney, Mr J. C. Lavin, Mr W. McWilliam, Dr D. G. Morison, Mr E. C. Pelham-Clinton, Mr E. Pickard, Dr M. Shaw and Mr D. Spreadbury. I also thank Mr J. M. Chalmers-Hunt for his interest, help and advice during the preparation of this account.

REFERENCES


1A specimen in the Duncan collection Aberdeen University.
2A specimen in Keighley Museum, Yorks, labelled viii/1908, Aberdeen (J. C. L.).

**HESPERIOIDEA**

**Hesperiidae**

*Erynnis tages* L.
A. Near Monymusk, regularly observed for many years, last seen c. 1970 (W.McW.).

**PAPILIONOIDEA**

**Pieridae**

*Pieris brassicae* L.
A & K. Common. Larvae on garden *Brassica*.

*P. rapae* L.
A. & K. Common. Larvae on garden *Brassica* and *Nasturtium*.

*P. napi* L.

**Anthocharis cardamines** L.
Local, occurring in marshy areas and common in some.
Lycaenidae

Callophrys rubi L.
K. Banchory (Reid, 1893). Coast districts (Esson, in Tutt, 1899-1914).

Lycaena phlaeas L.
A. & K. Widely distributed and quite common.

Cupido minimus Fuessly
Local but common (Trail, 1878). Common on the coast, not rare inland (Reid, 1893).
A. Aberarder (James, 1912). Tillyfourie near Alford (W.McW.).

Aricia artaxerxes artaxerxes Fab.
K. Abundant on the coast south from Aberdeen (Trail, 1878). Locally abundant. Muchalls has long been noted as a good locality (Reid, 1893). St Cyrus; Bervie (Gunning, 1896). Muchalls, common (E.P., R.M.P.).

Polyommatus icarus Rott.

Nymphalidae

Vanessa atalanta L.
A. & K. Common some years, particularly along the coast.

Cynthia cardui L.
A. & K. Generally less common than V. atalanta, most common along the coast.

Aglaiss urticae L.

Nymphalis polychloros L.
A. Near Inverurie, two (Trail, 1878). About two miles south-west of Kintore, bred regularly until 1959, larvae on elm. Repeated searches have failed to locate the species since (W.McW.).

Inachis io L.
A. Singly near Aberdeen, Monymusk and Fyvie (Trail,

**Boloria selene D. & S.**
Locally common in marshy areas.

**B. euphrosyne L.**
Locally common.

**Argynnis aglaja L.**
Common on the coast, locally abundant inland (Reid, 1893).

**Euphydryas aurinia Rott.**
A. Local and scarce, Monymusk and Fyvie (Trail, 1878). Pittscarrie Moss; Loch Shangie, Kemnay (Reid, 1893). Pittscarrie Moss (W.McW.).

**Satyridae**

**Erebia epiphron Knoch**
Scarce (Esson, 1890).

**E. aethiops Esp.**
A. Braemar, common; Nigg, one (Trail, 1878). Near Monymusk, formerly (W.McW.). Monymusk, 1957 (common; Potarch, 1972, one (G.M.). Near Huntly, a small colony (E.P.).

**Hipparchia semele L.**

**Maniola jurtina L.**
A. & K. Abundant.

**Coenonympha pamphilus L.**
A. & K. Abundant.
C. tullia Mull.
Abundant, all moors (Reid, 1893).
A. Pitshligo; Braemar (Cowie, 1902). Bennachie (W.McW.).
K. Hill of Fare (Cowie, 1902).

Aphantopus hyperantus L.
A. Fyvie; Cruden; Morven; Inverurie (Trail, 1878). Tillyfourie (Reid, 1893). Monymusk (Cowie, 1902), still there, 1958, but colony threatened by afforestation and now (1973) destroyed (W.McW.). [Between Kintore and Kemnay, specimens taken from the threatened Monymusk colony in 1958 and introduced here by W. McWilliam, where the species is now (1973) flourishing].

BOMBYCOIDEA
Lasiocampidae

Poecilocampa populi L.
A. Scarce, Inverurie and Fyvie (Trail, 1878). Pitcaple (Reid, 1893). Not common. Culter; Cluny; Monymusk (Cowie, 1902). Common, Dyce; Bucksburn; Kintore (R.M.P.).
K. Durris Forest (E.P.). Banchory R.T.

Trichiura crataegi L.
K. Hill of Fare, occasional (Cowie, 1902). Blackhall (Horne, 1904). Banchory R.T.

Lasiocampa quercus callunae Palmer
A. & K. Common on moors. Larvae on heather, sometimes abundant in spring.

Macrothylacia rubi L.
A. & K. On moors, usually less common than L. callunae. Larvae on heather.

Saturniidae

Saturnia pavonia L.
A. & K. Widespread and not uncommon, mostly on moors. Larvae on heather. Cocoons frequently seen among heather in early spring.

Endromidae

Endromis versicolora L.
Scarce.

**SPHINGOIDEA**

*Sphingidae*

**Agrius convolvuli L.**

Uncertain (Trail, 1878).

A. Pitcaple; Strichen; Aberdeen; Rubuslaw; Fyvie (Reid, Salter, Mundie, Buchan & Macintosh, in Tutt, 1899-1814). Kemnay, one, c. 1935 (W.McW.), Cults, one, 1937 (G.M.). Bucksburn, one, 1967 (M.S.).

**Acherontia atropos L.**

Every year, scarce (Trail, 1878).

A. Culter, 1938, one; Aberdeen, 1943, one (G.M.), 1951 (Shaw, 1951), 1967, one (R.M.P.), 1969, one (M.S.). Udny, 1966, one (M.S.).

**Laothoe populi L.**

A. & K. Common, larvae on sallow (R.M.P.), and aspen (E.C.P.-C.).

**Hemaris tityus L.**

A. Old Aberdeen Links; Inverurie; Scotston Moor; Monymusk (Trail, 1878). Kintore; Cluny; near Lumphanan (Cowie, 1902). Dinnet, 1938, two (G.M.). Between Kemnay and Inverurie (W.McW.).

K. Near Banchory, one, 1942 (G.M.).

**H. fuciformis L.**

A. W. McWilliam has several specimens collected over many years in the Kemnay area. He tells me the species was first observed in 1929 by the late Mr G. Hartley, flying with *H. tityus* in a wood between Kemnay and Inverurie. W.McW. last saw one between Kemnay and Inverurie c. 1969.

**Macroglossum stellatarum L.**


**Hyles gallii Rott.**


K. St Cyrus N.N.R., one, 1973 (J.F.).

**Deilephila porcellus L.**

A. Scarce on the coast and at Inverurie (Trail, 1878). Old Aberdeen Links, frequent (Cowie, 1902). Kemnay, c. 1950 (W.McW.).

NOTODONTOIDEA

Notodontidae

Phalera bucephala L.
Larvae very common in places (Trail, 1878). Often abundant (Reid, 1891).

Cerura vinula L.
Not uncommon (Trail, 1878). Common everywhere (Reid, 1893).

Harpyia furcula Clerck
Scarce (Trail, 1878). Widely distributed, larvae not uncommon (Reid, 1893).
A. Aberdeen neighbourhood, larvae not uncommon (Cowie, 1902). Corby Loch and Checkbar Moss, larvae on sallows growing in mosses (E.P.).

Notodonta dromedarius L.
Rare (Trail, 1878). Not scarce (Reid, 1893).
A. & K. Larvae common on birch (R.M.P.).

Eligmodonta ziczac L.
Not uncommon, especially as larvae (Trail, 1878).

Pheosia gnoma Fab.
Rare (Trail, 1878).
A. Pitcaple, not rare, scarce elsewhere (Reid, 1893). Very scarce. Kintore; Hazelhead; Cluny; Monymusk (Cowie, 1902).
A. & K. Widespread and common from Braemar to the coast. Larvae on sallow (R.M.P.).

P. tremula Clerck
Rather common (Trail, 1878). Larvae common (Reid, 1893). Sometimes very common (Esson, 1890).

Ptilodon capucina L.
A. & K. Quite common. Larvae on birch.
Odontosia carmelita Esp.

Pterostoma palpina Clerck
   A. Near Kintore, several, c. 1955 (W.McW.).

NOCTUOIDEA
   Lymantriidae

Orgyia antiqua L.

Dasychira fascelina L.
   On all moors, rather scarce (Trail, 1878).
   A. Not uncommon at light, 1968: Tyrebagger Hill; Brimmond Hill; Corby Loch (R.M.P.).
   [Cambus o'May; Dinnet, 1973 (E.C.P.-C.).]
   Larvae more frequently observed, on Calluna: Forvie N.N.R. (E.P.); Glen Muick, 1972 (R.M.P.).

Arctiidae

Nudaria mundana L.

Eilema lurideola Zinck.

Parasemia plantaginis L.
   Common on moors to 2000 ft. (Trail, 1878). Scarce on moors (Reid, 1893).

Arctia caja L.

Diacrisia sannio L.
   A. Scarce. Inverurie; Monymusk; Park (Trail, 1878). Murtle Den; Invercannie (Cowie, 1902). Braemar (Cruttwell,

**Spilosoma lubricipeda** L.
A. & K. Abundant. Larvae on various grasses, ribwort plantain, dock.

**Phragmatobia fuliginosa** L.
A. & K. Common. Larvae on heather.

**Tyria jacobaeae** L.

**Noctuidae**

**Euxoa obelisca** D. & S.
A. Old Aberdeen, one (Trail, 1878).
K. St Cyrus N.N.R., one, 1961 (E.C.P.-C.).

**E. tritici** L.
Abundant (Trail, 1878).
A. & K. Common on coasts, particularly on sandhills, but generally distributed and not uncommon inland.

**E. nigricans** L.
Local but common (Trail, 1878).

**E. cursoria** Hufn.

**Agrotis vestigialis** Hufn.

**A. segetum** D. & S.
A. & K. Sometimes common.

**A. exclamationis** L.
A. & K. Generally common, abundant in places near the coast.

**A. epsilon** Hufn.
Common but uncertain in appearance (Reid, 1893).

**Axylia putris** L.


**Ochropleura praecox** L.


**O. plecta** L.

A. & K. Common.

**Eugnorisma depuncta** L.

This species does not appear in any of the literature cited except for the statement in South (1961) that it seems “to be more frequently and regularly obtained in Scotland, especially in the woods of . . . Aberdeen”. Apart from a specimen in Keighley Museum, Yorks., labelled Aberdeen, 1880 (J.C.L.), the only records are of very recent origin.
A. Ballater, five, 1971; Dinnet, one, 1971 (E.C.P.-C.).

**Standfussiana lucernea** L.


**Noctua pronuba** L.

A. & K. Abundant. Ova on seedheads of grasses, larvae on various grass spp.

**N. orbona** Hüfn.

Local and scarce (Trail, 1878).
A. Ordie, one, 1971 (E.C.P.-C.).

**N. comes** Hübn.

A. & K. Common.

**N. fimbriata** Schreber

Local and scarce (Trail, 1878).

**N. janthina** D. & S.

Local and scarce (Trail, 1878).
Graphiphora augur Fab.
Common (Trail, 1878). Abundant (Reid, 1893).
A. Plentiful. Cults; Blacktop; Murtle Den (Cowie, 1902).
K. Common (Dalglish, 1894). Durris Forest, scarce (E.P.).

Paradiarsia sobrina Dup.
K. Scarce on coast (Horne, 1897). Blackhall (Horne, 1904).

P. glareosa Esp.
A. & K. Common.

Lycophotia porphyrea D. & S.
A. & K. Abundant on moors. Larvae on Calluna.

Diarsia mendica Fab.
A. & K. Abundant.

D. dahlii Hübn.
A. & K. Rather local but abundant in many places.

D. brunnea D. & S.
A. & K. Quite common.

D. rubi View.
A. & K. Common.

Xestia alpicola Zett.
A. Braemar, one (Trail, 1878). Near Braemar, a few (Reid, 1893). Braemar district above 2250 ft., three, 1962 (E.C.P.-C.).

X. e-nigrum L.
A. & K. Very common.

X. triangulum Hufn.

X. baja D. & S.
A. & K. Very common.

(to be continued)