

## Notes on Lepidoptera, 1949

by  
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The early months of 1949, the spring and even the first 2 or 3 weeks of the summer were very unfavourable for field collecting and lightwork, but on the 12th of July the weather suddenly became mild and the rest of this month proved to be very good. In the marshes near Kortenhoef very many species came at light, among them: *Diataraxia splendens* Hb.; *Celaena haworthii* Curt. (already 13-7); *Pelosia obtusa* H.-S.; *Tholomiges turfosalis* Wck.; *Chilo cicatricellus* Hb.; *Schoenobius gigantellus* Schiff.; *Xystophora divisella* Dgl. and *palustrella* Dgl.; *Atremaea lonchoptera* Stdg. a.s.o. which are all rather common here but elsewhere in the country they are rarely or not at all observed.

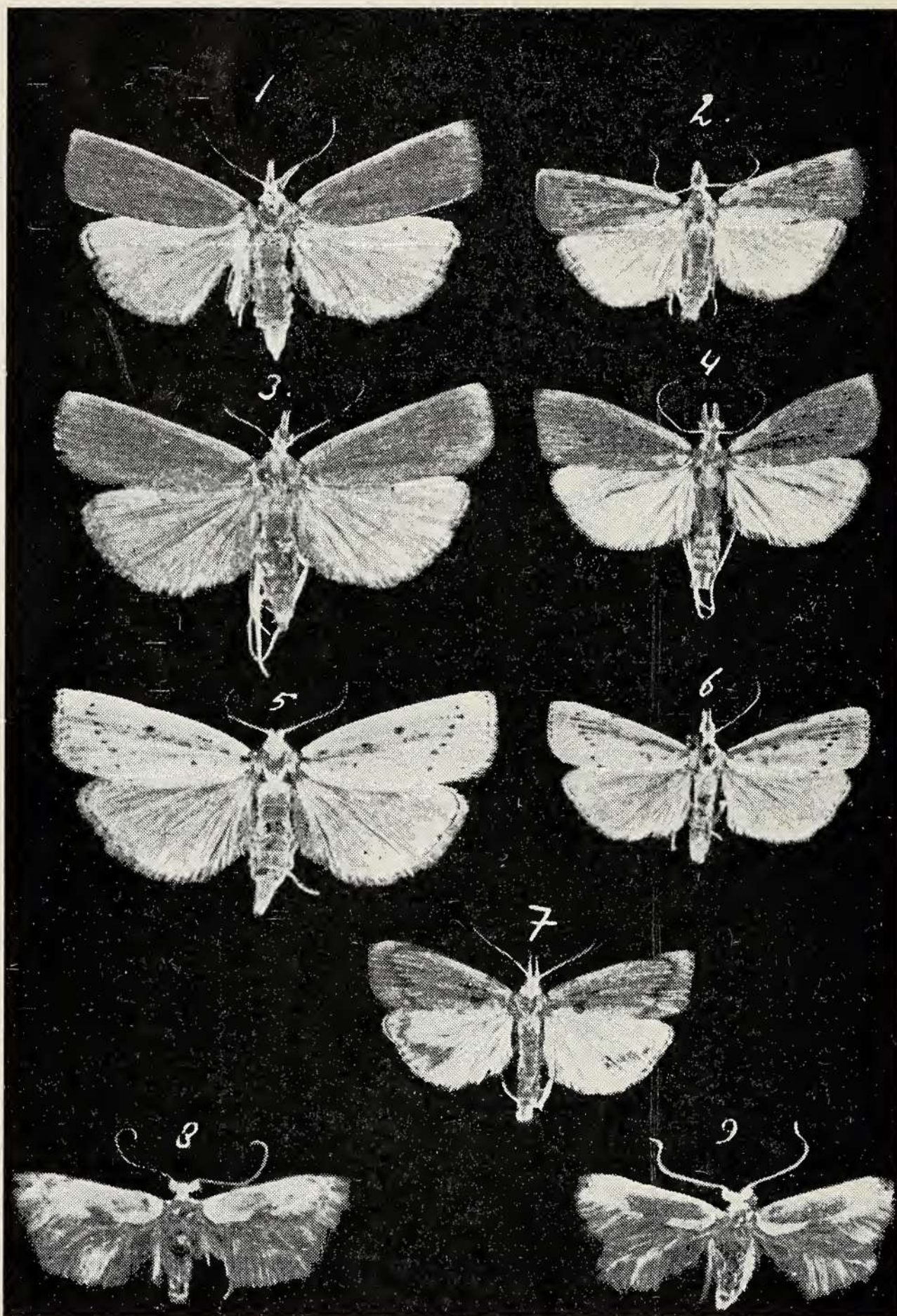
During a short stay at Denekamp in the last week of July, when the weather was very favourable, I noticed more than 200 species at the lamp there. It is remarkable that many species which occur in the marshes near Kortenhoef, are also found in the neighbourhood of Denekamp, especially along the brook Dinkel.

As regards the Dutch Microlepidoptera, 1949 was a very good year, for no less than 6 new species could be added to the list, while many rare species were again captured or were reared in Holland for the first time. So I thought it might be of interest to write down my activities in 1949 in the following list.

*Crambus paludellus* Hb. Abundant near Kortenhoef, Loosdrecht and also near Denekamp. Some ♂♂ and ♀♀ of the beautiful ab. *durandi* Lucas were captured. In *durandi* the forewings are pure white, sometimes with a light yellow hue; the discal dots and the subterminal line, which consists of small black dots between the veins, are conspicuous. Forewings of the ♂ beneath yellowish-grey and those of the ♀ much lighter, greyish-white. Hindwings on both sides white.

One ♂, which I captured at Kortenhoef on the 17th of July, differs so much from the type form and from ab. *durandi*, that I mistook it at first for another species. The forewings are grey and not light brownish (colour of dry reed) as in the type form; the part of the forewings beyond the subterminal line is darker; basal dots fused and forming almost a broad first transverse line; discal dot small; subterminal line very conspicuous, all dots being long and broad and fused; hindwings white with a sinuous and finally broad continuation of the subterminal line on the forewings till beyond vein 2; head, thorax and abdomen light grey. Forewings beneath grey without discal dot and first line; beyond the indistinct subterminal line dark grey. Hindwings beneath with a broad dark grey band along the termen. All markings on fore- and hindwings are blackish-grey. I propose to name this ab. *griseostrigata* n. ab. The photograph also shows the type form; number 2 and 4 resemble much the figures 452 and 453 of HÜBNER.

*Crambus salinellus* Tutt. 1 ♂ on 24-VII near Denekamp. Since SCHOLTEN captured this rarely observed species at Lobith in 1934, it has already been proved that it does not occur exclusively in salt marshes.



1—4. *Crambus paludellus* Hb., type form. 5—6. *Crambus paludellus* Hb., ab. *durandi* Lucas. 7. *Crambus paludellus* Hb., ab. *griseostrigata* n. ab. 8. *Opostega auritella* Hb., type form. 9. *Opostega auritella* Hb., ab. *obscurella* n. ab.

This capture was, however, not the first in Holland, for in the collection of the Amsterdam Zoological Museum I saw 3 *salinellus* taken by TER HAAR at Bergen op Zoom in 1897, but he arranged them among *inquinatus*.

*Crambus uliginosellus* Z. 1 ♂ near Kortenhoeft on 13-VII and 2 ♂ ♂

in a fen near Denekamp on 24-VII. I never before met with this species.

*Perinephila lancealis* Schiff. Rather abundant at light near Denekamp in the last week of July. All specimens were, however, deteriorated.

*Platyptilia rhododactyla* F. New for the Dutch fauna. 1 ♂ of this beautiful plume was taken in the dunes near Vogelenzang on the 14th of July flying above the foodplant of the larva: *Rosa spinosissima* L. *Rhododactyla* is known already in all neighbouring countries except Denmark, where it will doubtless also occur.

*Oenophthira pilleriana* Schiff. Some specimens elevated on July 13 and 17. The larvae were found on *Hippophaë rhamnoides* L., *Orobanche vulgaris* Poir., and *Cynoglossum officinale* L. in the dunes near Vogelenzang. *Pilleriana* appears to be very polyphagous, for SCHÜTZE (1931) gives a list of 14 foodplants in his „Biologie der Kleinschmetterlinge“, but he does not mention these three.

*Acalla lorquiniana* Dup. New for the Dutch fauna. 2 ♂ ♂ at light on July 12 and 13 in the marshes near Kortenhoef. They are, however, in a rather bad state, so that, to be sure that the determination was correct, it was necessary to examine the genitalia. Most probably the captured males belong to the first brood, the larvae of which should live between the leaves of *Lythrum salicaria* L., while the larvae of the second brood should live in or between the flowers. KENNEL (Palaearktische Totriciden) mentions even a third brood. I looked several times for the larvae on plants of *Lythrum* in the place where I took the moths but could not detect them. *Lorquiniana* has been observed in England, Sweden, North Germany and France, but is everywhere rare. In Denmark and Belgium it is unknown.

*Ancylis comptana* Froel. This species (for the first time captured in Holland in 1948, see Ent. Ber. 12 : 415) was abundant on the slopes of the Bemelerberg (Limburg) on July 20 and on August 26. I found the larvae in great numbers there between topleaves of *Sanguisorba minor* Scop. Doubtless *comptana* occurs in many apt places in Limburg, for instance the Keutenberg.

*Platyedra vilella* Z. New for the Dutch fauna. Some time ago Dr C. O. VAN REGTEREN ALTENA asked me to determine some Microlepidoptera captured during excursions held in May, July and Sept. 1949 on the St. Pietersberg near Maastricht for the Rijks Museum van Nat. Hist. at Leiden. Among the species, about sixty in number, I detected *vilella*, netted on the 5th of May. The specimen, a male, is totally deteriorated, not one scale is left on the wings, so that it was necessary to prepare the genitalia to identify the species with certainty. As the genitalia have a very typical form, the determination was not difficult. The larvae live in June and July in the flowers and seeds of *Malva silvestris* L., and the moths are on the wing from July till May, so the captured specimen is a hibernated one. *Vilella* is common in all surrounding countries.

*Xystophora lutulentella* Z. 1 ♂ at light at Hollandsche Rading on the 22nd of August. This is the second time *lutulentella* was observed in Holland. For the first time it was captured in the same place (along an arm of the Tienhoven Canal) on the 6th of June 1939 (see Ent. Ber. 12 : 86). The specimen I mentioned as *lutulentella* in Ent. Ber. 12 : 415 appeared to be a ♀ of *Xystophora suffusella* Dgl. *Lutulentella* has been rarely observed in all surrounding countries, except Belgium. The two

Dutch specimens belong to the dark fuscous aberration, with an indistinct discal stigma at two thirds of the forewing. As the first specimen was taken on June 6 and the second on August 22 it is clear that the moths emerge irregularly or that they have a long life, for I do not think there is a second brood.

*Xystophora palustrella* Dgl. (See also Ent. Ber. 12 : 415.) In this year I again found the larvae in the stems of *Rumex hydrolapathum* Huds. at Hollandsche Rading and at Kortenhoef. On the first of July I gathered 15 fullfed ones in half an hour. One of the larvae gathered before had already pupated on that day.

Normally the fullfed larva gnaws a hole in the sides of the stem and in this hole it pupates so that the imago can easily emerge, but 2 or 3 of my larvae left the stem to pupate in a piece of an old bath towel with which I tied up the opened stem. I took the pupae out of their houses and kept them in a glass with moistened moss and from the 9th of July till the 10th of August the moths emerged. To be sure of success one should not gather the larvae before the last days of June, cut off the stem near the root, open it cautiously with a knife and when there is a larva within, cut off the part of the stem in which it is found, tie it up with a piece of rope or something of the sort and keep them in a closed, tall glass pot. For some larvae that should leave the stem to pupate somewhere else, it is necessary to put in some moss. It is necessary to gather 15 fullfed ones in half an hour. One of the larvae gathered perished.

*Xystophora micella* Schiff. New for the Dutch fauna. 1 ♂ at light at Denekamp on July 27. The larvae live in May in the shoots and between the leaves of *Rubus* species. Observed in all neighbouring countries of the continent. In England it is unknown.

*Hypatima inunctella* Z. 1 ♂ at light near Denekamp on 26-VII. The biology of this rare species is absolutely unknown. SORHAGEN (1886, Kleinschmetterl. Mark Brandenburg : 221) mentions that BÜTTNER netted the moths among bushes of *Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn. in marshes. *Inunctella* has been rarely observed in Sicily (MARIANNI, Fauna Lep. Italiae 1, (II & III) : 163), in Russia, Greece and North Germany. In Holland it was first taken at Moergestel on the 25th of July 1924 by Count BENTINCK. I met with it for the first time in the marshes of Kortenhoef on July 5, 1937, flying among *Alnus* and *Salix*.

*Antispila pfeifferella* Hb. New for the Dutch fauna. In the beginning of August the mines of this species were rather common at Geulem (Limb.) in the leaves of *Cornus sanguinea* L. The mines were, however, nearly all empty; I only gathered 3 or 4 of them with the larva in it. According to SCHÜTZE (Biol. Kl.schmetterl.) the mines are to be looked for during July while those of *treitschkiella* F.R. (see Ent. Ber. 12 : 416) do not occur before medio August. The mines of *pfeifferella* are larger than those of *treitschkiella* and so is the oval piece which the fullfed larva cuts out of the leaf just above the mine and in which it hibernates. The larva of *treitschkiella* has 8 black dorsal dots and that of *pfeifferella* has no dorsal dots. As the larva does not pupate before early spring, breeding is rather difficult.

*Coleophora olivacella* Stt. New for the Dutch fauna. The mines of this species in the leaves of *Melandrium diurnum* Fr. (*Lychnis diurna*

Sibth.) I knew already for a couple of years but I never succeeded in finding a larva. In May of this year, however, I gathered 3 larvae in their ochreous-brownish, cylindrical cases. They only mine the leaves of young, low plants which grow in the shadow under bushes. Although I took much care of them, only one imago emerged on July 1st. *M. diurnum* is an uncommon foodplant for *olivacella*. It generally feeds on *Stellaria holostea* L. and according to HERING (Blattminen Mitt. u. Nord-Eur.) also on *Cerastium arvense*. The larvae are loosely attached to the leaves and they often drop to the earth when the plant is touched; this is most probably the reason why I could not find the cases at first. In the dunes near Vogelenzang *olivacella* is very rare and local. As this species is known in all neighbouring countries inclusive England, Sweden and Denmark, it is remarkable that it was not observed here before.

*Opostega auritella* Hb. Common in the marshes near Kortenhoef and in one place even abundant. It is incomprehensible I did not notice them there before 1948! According to MEYRICK the larvae mine in May in the rind of the stems of *Caltha palustris* L., but although I accurately examined all *Caltha*-plants in a place where in the year before the moths were very common, I did not succeed in detecting the larvae, nor did I find any trace of them. BÜTTNER (1880, Stett. Ent. Zeitung : 468) relates that KNAACK one time found a light-green, very lively larva on *Caltha*-flowers gathered in early spring which made a white, solid cocoon and from which emerged a crippled moth that was recognized as *auritella* by STANTON.

In two ♂♂, captured on June 6, 1948, the forewings are darkened by a long, broad, grey stain which extends from the base till beyond the tornus; the dorsum till the dorsal spot and the costa except the first fifth from the base, remain white. The typical dark fuscous dorsal spot has fused with the grey colour and is therefore very indistinct. I propose to name this form : *obscorella*, n. ab.

*Dechtiria atricollis* Hb. (*Nepticula atr.*) The mines of this species were already known in Holland for several years. See Natuurhist. Maandbl. Maastricht 32 : 72 (1943) and Tijdschr. v. Ent. 86 : XXV (1943). In Oct. 1948 I again gathered several mines at Loosdrecht from *Pirus malus* L. (*Malus silvestris* Mill.) which contained the larvae and from May 9 till 20 nine moths emerged.

BEIRNE (1945, The male genitalia of the British Stigmellidae, Proc. R. Irish Acad. 50 (B) : 205), could not perceive any difference between the genitalia of *atricollis* and *angulifasciella* Stt. and therefore supposes the two forms to be biological races of one species, and includes them as being synonymous. In 1942 Mr. Vári found many mines of *angulifasciella* in leaves of *Rosa spec.* at Nunspeet but as far as I know, never one moth emerged. As I do not possess the mines of *angulifasciella* I cannot compare them, but when I compare the descriptions of the mines of these two species in HERING's „Blattminen Mitt. Eur.” I think it most probable that BEIRNE is right.

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