

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF ST. KILDA.

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(British Museum, Natural History.)

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THE islands of the St. Kilda group lie about 40 miles due west of North Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, and comprise the main island of St. Kilda, or Hirta, and the subsidiary islets of Boreray, Soay and Dùn; there are also a few outlying stacs. The extreme length of Hirta is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, its greatest width is $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles and the area is 1575 acres (that is, nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles). The total area of the island group is less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. The islands are steep and precipitous, and Conachair, on Hirta, rises to 1397 ft. St. Kilda has been inhabited for a long time, and sheep and sea-birds have furnished the staple means of life for the inhabitants. In September, 1930, the islanders were evacuated by the Government, although, it is understood, since then a number of them have been allowed to return during the summer months (*vide* 1931, *St. Kilda Papers*).

The distinctive character of the fauna of St. Kilda is well known and the islands have been visited by naturalists from time to time. No complete list of the lepidopterous species recorded is known to me, and in view of the increasing interest shown in geographical distribution and variation, it appears desirable to remedy this.

The collectors of Lepidoptera who have published some account of their visits to St. Kilda are: John Macgillivray, 1840 (1842, *Edinburgh New Phil. J.*, 32: 47-70), C. W. Dale, 1883 (1884, *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 20: 213-214; 1889, *Entomologist*, 22: 12-13), J. Waterston and C. Gordon Hewitt, 1905 and 1906 (Waterston, 1906, *Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist.*, 1906: 150-153; Hewitt, 1907, *loc. cit.*, 1907: 219-221), Oxford and Cambridge Party, 1931 (D. Lack, 1932, *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 68: 142-143; reprinted in 1937, *St. Kilda Papers*, Oxford). See also J. J. Walker, 1932, *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 68: 146-150.

In the following list of the 30 species of Lepidoptera recorded from St. Kilda, the names of the "Macro-Lepidoptera" are those employed in the 1939 edition of R. South, *The Moths of the British Isles* (London).

SATYRIDAE.

Coenonympha pamphilus (L.): (Macgillivray). Not seen by later collectors and it must be considered very doubtful if it still occurs.

NYPHALIDAE.

Vanessa cardui (L.): (Waterston, Lack).

V. atalanta (L.): (Lack).

Aglais urticae (L.): (Waterston).

ARCTIIDAE.

Parasemia plantaginis (L.): (Lack).

AGROTIDAE.

Hadena thalassina (Schiff.): (Hewitt).

Cerapteryx graminis (L.): (Macgillivray).

Procus fasciuncula (Haw.): (Lack).

Apamea monoglypha (Hufn.): (Lack). Approaches the blackish variety *infuscata* (White).

Orthosia incerta (Hufn.): (Waterston). The single male obtained was of the dark form.

Plusia gamma (L.): (Macgillivray).

P. interrogationis (L.): (Hewitt).

GEOMETRIDAE.

Sterrha rusticata (Schiff.): (Hewitt). Reported by Hewitt as being by far the commonest moth at the time of his visit. This is surprising, as, in Britain, the species is confined to southern England.

Anaitis plagiata (L.): (Dale).

Xanthorhoë munitata (Hbn.): (Hewitt, Lack). Hewitt found var. *hethlandica* (Prout), but both of Lack's specimens were of the normal form.

Entephria caesiata (Schiff.): (Lack). The only specimen obtained was typical and not referable to one of the darker forms.

Perizoma alchemillata (L.): (Hewitt).

Eupithecia venosata (F.): (Hewitt).

PYRALIDAE.

Crambus culmellus L.: (Dale, Lack).

Scoparia sp.: (Waterston, Lack).

EUCOSMIDAE.

Bactra lanceolana (Hbn.): (Dale).

Eucosma schulziana (F.): (Waterston).

GELECHIDAE.

Gelechia terrella (Hbn.): (Lack).

OECOPHORIDAE.

Hofmannophila pseudopretella (Staint.): (Lack).

Endrosis sarcitrella (L.): (Waterston, as *lactella*).

GLYPHIPTERYGIDAE.

Glyphipteryx thrasonella (Scop.): (Dale).

ELACHISTIDAE.

Elachista albifrontella (Hbn.): (Waterston).

PLUTELLIDAE.

Plutella daella Staint. : (Lack).

TINAEIDAE.

Monopis rusticella (Clerk.) : (Lack).

HEPIALIDAE.

Hepialus fusconebulosa (DeG.) : (Waterston, Hewitt, both as *velleda* Hbn.). The series obtained included the uniform reddish-brown variety *gallicus* Led.

Some of Dale's specimens are in the Hope Department of the University Museum at Oxford. The fact that, of the 13 species taken by Lack in 1931, 11 were new to St. Kilda, suggests that many more species await discovery.



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