



S. 1992  
1997

*From*  
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF LONDON

Series A. GENERAL ENTOMOLOGY

*Vol. 12, Parts 4-6, June 15th, 1937*

The Royal Entomological Society of London,  
41, Queen's Gate, S.W.7





THE PROCRYPTIC APPEARANCE IN TWO RESTING ATTITUDES  
OF THE GEOMETRID MOTH *FIDONIA PLUMMISTARIA* VILL.  
(= *PLUMISTARIA* BKH.) OBSERVED BY LT.-COL. H. D. PEILE  
AT MENTONE, S. FRANCE

By Sir EDWARD POULTON, F.R.S., F.R.E.S.

THE "nature-prints" exhibited to the Meeting were sent by my friend Col. Peile with the following notes written on 19 Feb. 1937:—

"I do not think I have before mentioned to you what seems to me a very interesting detail about the common moth *Fidonia plummistaria*. The upper-side of fore-wing and underside of hind-wing being protectively marked to blend with pine-bark, needles and stones when the fore-wings are thrown back over the hind-wings—the moth being common among pine-trees at about 600 ft. elevation."

It is interesting that this moth should possess a procryptic pattern, on the exposed under surface of the wings when held upright over the back, like that so commonly found in butterflies. In this attitude the projecting apical area of the fore-wing under surface resembles that of the hind-wing, forming with it one continuous pattern. This is, I believe, the appearance adopted for protection during feeding and short rests between flights. In these conditions a similar attitude, associated with a sober, inconspicuous under surface, is commonly assumed by Geometrid moths, but the detailed procryptic pattern of this *Fidonia* is, I believe, rare: indeed, I do not remember having noticed it before in a moth.

During prolonged rest the hind-wings are evidently covered by the fore, while the procryptic upper surfaces of the latter become nearly continuous along the mid-dorsal line, producing the effect of a single triangular patch on the bark or other surface selected by the moth.

Col. Peile informs me that he also had inferred that the peculiar distribution of the procryptic pattern is utilised in the manner described above. Mr. L. B. Prout, who had kindly confirmed the identification, also agreed with the interpretation and believed that the display of a similar detailed concealing pattern by the upper surface in one position and the under in an entirely different one, was rare, although common with the aposematic coloration of distasteful Lepidoptera.

Mr. J. A. Simes has suggested, on seeing the specimens, that the moth probably rests on slender twigs or branches, when the under surface would be visible on an approach from one direction and the upper from another. In such resting positions the attitude making "a single triangular patch" would utilise the procryptic pattern of the under as well as the upper surface.

NOTES ON *HYPOLIMNAS BOLINA* L., AND THE FOOD-PREFERENCES OF THE GIANT TOAD (*BUFO MARINUS* L.), IN SUVA, FIJI

By HUBERT W. SIMMONDS, O.B.E., F.R.E.S.

[Communicated by Sir EDWARD POULTON, who said that the following extract from his friend's letter was written from Suva on 7 Jan. 1937, and that it was very interesting to hear of the increased numbers of the male *bolina*; also that he hoped the toad would be tested with a variety of Fijian butterflies and other insects.]

PROC. R. ENT. SOC. LOND. (A) 12. PT. 4-6. (JUNE 1937.)



PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY  
RICHARD CLAY & SONS, LIMITED,  
BUNGAY, SUFFOLK.





