

Butterflies in Majorca — Supplement

By M. J. PERCEVAL, F.R.E.S.*

Following my notes on the butterflies of Majorca published in *The Record* two years ago, additional information on certain species has now become available.

Lasiommata megera L.

Some confusion seems to exist concerning the status of "*intermedia* Muschamp". Manley and Allcard (1970) refer to it as an aberration, while Bustillo and Rubio (1974) treat it as a subspecies. The original description by Muschamp (1904) is as follows:

"*Pararge megeara* (15 specimens). Wing rounder than in type as in Corsican var. *tigelius*; size of latter with exception of one male that is only a little smaller than type; markings heavier than those of *tigelius*, but not quite so pronounced as in type; underside colouring like normal Swiss insect. . . . The general appearance of this butterfly, inspite of its heavy markings, is that of *tigelius*. It was only when I confronted it with the Corsican insect that I discovered that I had not netted a series of *tigelius*. It is evidently an intermediate form, and as such I have named it *Pararge megeara* ab. *intermedia*."

It is clear from this description that Muschamp was referring to his series as a whole and thus, if it was representative of the species in the island, Bustillo and Rubio could be correct in treating it as a subspecies. In fact, however, I can only conclude that Muschamp's series was exceptional as it is not typical of the present population of *megera* in Majorca.

Since completing my original paper I have had the opportunity of examining a series of *megera* taken by Dr. L. G. Higgins during a visit to the island in April 1975, and I am indebted to him for providing me with specimens. This series is quite ordinary, although on the small side, and I can only agree with Dr. Higgin's own view that none of his specimens could be considered as intermediate between *megera* and *paramegeara* (*tigelius*).

There would seem to be no justification for considering Majorcan *megera* as a separate subspecies. *Intermedia* is an occasional aberration and specimens as extreme as that illustrated by Manley and Allcard appear to be very uncommon. The main characteristic of Majorcan specimens is their small size, a feature I have already referred to in respect of a number of other species from the island.

Gegenes nostradamus F.

I listed the occurrence of this species on the island as doubtful as I could find only one reference to it, a single specimen taken in 1932, more than 40 years ago. Its presence in Majorca can now, however, be confirmed as I am informed by Mr. T. G. Howarth that he took a single male at Puerto Soller in May 1971.

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Pieris brassicae L.

This species would seem to be more numerous than I perhaps indicated, as Mr. H. G. Allcard tells me that he found it commonly in the vegetable growing area inland of Palma. He also comments on its small size.

Artogeia napi L.

In the postscript to my paper I noted the inclusion of *A. napi* as a Majorcan species by Bustillo and Rubio (1974). Señor M. R. Gomez Bustillo has now informed me, however, that this has subsequently been found to be an error due to the incorrect identification of a single female which was in fact *A. rapae* L.

References

- Bustillo, M. R. G. and Rubio, F. F., 1974. *Mariposas de la Peninsula Iberica*. Madrid.
 Manley, W. B. L. and Allcard, H. G., 1970. *A Field Guide to the Butterflies and Burnets of Spain*.
 Muschamp, P. A. H., 1904. Majorca — Eight Days Entomology, Two New Butterfly Aberrations. *Ent. Rec.*, **16**: 221-223.
 Perceval, M. J., 1974. Butterflies of Majorca. *Ent. Rec.*, **86**: 225-234.

Notes and Observations

EUDEMIS PORPHYRANA (HUEBNER) NEW TO KENT. — A single specimen of this Tortricid appeared in the m.v. trap in my garden here on the night of August 4th/5th, 1976. So far as I am aware this is the first record of this species for Kent. The moth appears to have been first recognised as British in 1915 from Devon and Herefordshire, whence it seems to have extended its range eastwards. — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

APOMYELOIS BISTRATELLA NEOPHANES (DURRANT, 1915) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN WALES. — I would like, rather belatedly, to record breeding this moth in September 1974 from a larva that I found in *Daldinia concentrica* on *Ulex*, on sea cliffs near Oxwich, Gower Peninsula, Glamorgan. I have not heard of any other South Wales records for this species. — Dr. A. N. B. SIMPSON, 29 The Greenway, Colletts Green, Powick, near Worcester.

THE CONVULVULUS HAWK IN HANTS. — On 22nd September, 1976, I discovered a male *Agrius convolvuli* L. clinging to the bottom of a sheet hanging near the m.v. trap in my garden, and on the following morning a further male was found in almost exactly the same place. Later that evening, my son found yet another male on the ground about six feet from the trap. Apparently it had been there all day but had fortunately avoided the attentions of the birds. I was also given a dead *convolvuli* which had been found on the wall of a house at Burr ridge, near Southampton, on 22nd September. — D. A. LEPARD, Silver Crest, Silver Street, Sway, Lymington, Hants.