

Hyperlais lutosalis (Mann, 1862) a new record to the Maltese Lepidoptera (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea, Crambidae, Glaphyriinae)

Aldo Catania, Anthony Seguna, John J. Borg & Paul Sammut

Abstract

Hyperlais lutosalis (Mann, 1862) is reported for the first time from the Maltese Islands. A Maltese name is proposed for this new record.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Pyraloidea, Crambidae, Glaphyriinae, *Hyperlais lutosalis*, Maltese Islands.

Hyperlais lutosalis (Mann, 1862) nuevo para los Lepidoptera de Malta
(Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea, Crambidae, Glaphyriinae)

Resumen

Hyperlais lutosalis (Mann, 1862) se menciona por primera vez para Malta. Se propone un nombre maltés para este nuevo registro.

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, Pyraloidea, Crambidae, Glaphyriinae, *Hyperlais lutosalis*, Malta.

Introduction

The superfamily Pyraloidea, a diverse taxonomic group encompassing approximately 16,000 described species worldwide (Heppner, 1991), showcases a notable regional variation in species distribution. In Europe, around 914 species have been documented (Nuss et al. 2004), reflecting a substantial presence of this superfamily. The Maltese Islands, despite their relatively small size, host a significant portion of Pyraloidea diversity, with 172 recorded species documented (Sammut, 2020), underscoring the importance of these islands as a habitat for a diverse array of moth species within the Pyraloidea. The genus *Hyperlais* Marion, 1959 is represented locally with two other species, *Hyperlais nemausalis* (Duponchel, 1834) and *Hyperlais argillacealis* (Zeller, 1847) (Sammut, 2020). *Hyperlais lutosalis* was originally described from Bursa, Turkey (Kemal et al. 2020). *Hyperlais lutosalis* (Mann, 1862) is being here added to the Maltese Lepidoptero fauna.

Material examined

MALTA, 1 ♂, Żebbuġ, 17-II-2024, [35°52'5.86"N, 14°26'20.35"E] [at light], A. Catania leg., in coll. A. Catania.

Discussion

According to Varenne & Nel (2011), the first reference to *Hyperlais lutosalis* in Europe was from

Southern France, noted under the synonym *Hyperlais cruzae* Agenjo, 1953. Subsequently, Gastón et al. (2015) recorded *Hyperlais lutosalis* from Spain, France, Sardinia, Croatia, and the European portion of Turkey. Although *Hyperlais lutosalis* typically appears in Europe in limited and scattered occurrences, reports indicate a significantly higher prevalence in North Africa, especially in countries like Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia (Leraut, 2012). The biology of this species is yet unknown, but records indicate that it is on the wing between the months of February and August, possibly with two generations per year (Leraut, 2012). Honey & Riddiford (2015) extended the flight period to October and Varenne & Nel (2011) prolonged the flight period further to November. It flies in various altitudes between sea level in Almeria and 1400 metres in España (Murcia). It is typical of arid semi-desert biotopes, inhabiting only the south-eastern tip of the Iberian Peninsula (Gastón et al. 2015). The species is new to the Maltese Lepidoptero fauna and we propose the Maltese name Hajperlajs Lewn it-Tafal after a transliteration of the scientific name.



Conclusion

The appearance of *Hyperlais lutosalis* in Malta is interesting, prompting considerations about the changing climate. Species from North Africa are increasingly making their way to southern Europe, seeking similar or even more favourable breeding grounds for their survival and proliferation. Recent records include *Eremopola lenis magnifica* (Rothschild, 1914), possibly driven with the southern wind from the coastal areas of Libya (Catania, et al. 2022). Another notable instance is *Drasteria philippina* (Austaut, 1880), a species typical of the North African semi-arid habitat (Catania, 2019). Other species that regularly visit our 250W Mercury lamp and 18W UV tubes are *Agrotis herzogii* Rebel, 1911, *Agrotis haifae* Staudinger, 1897 and *Cerocala algerica* Oberthür, 1876 all known to disperse and or migrate. Their records have increased, and this is always possible when they are assisted by currents from North Africa (Agius, 2022).

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank František Slamka, of Slovakia, for the identification of the species and to Dr. Antonio Vives for providing the Spanish translation of this text.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known financial interest or personal relationship that could have influence the work presented in this article.

References

- Agius, J. (2022). Dispersal of Heterocera species from North Africa to the Maltese Islands (Insecta: Lepidoptera). *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, 50(200), 659-663. <https://doi.org/10.57065/shilap.254>
- Catania, A. (2019). *Drasteria philippina* (Austaut, 1880) a new record for the Maltese Islands and Europe (Lepidoptera: Erebididae). *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, 47(185), 171-176. <https://doi.org/10.57065/shilap.739>
- Catania, A., Sammut, P., Borg, J. J., & Seguna, A. (2022). *Eremopola lenis magnifica* (Rothschild, 1914) a species new for lepidoptero fauna of the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, Xyleninae). *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, 50(200), 685-687. <https://doi.org/10.57065/shilap.259>
- Gastón, F. J., Macià, R., Redondo, V., Vives Moreno, A., & Ylla, J. (2015). Revisión del género *Hyperlais* Marion, 1959 en España y Portugal y designación del lectotipo de *Cybalomia rivasalis* Vázquez, 1905 (Lepidoptera: Crambidae, Cybalomiinae). *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, 43(172), 645-657.
- Heppner, J. B. (1991). Faunal regions and diversity of Lepidoptera. *Tropical Lepidoptera*, 2 (supplement), 1-85.

- Honey, M. R., & Riddiford, N. J. (2015). *Hyperlais lutosalis* (Mann, 1862) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae, Cybalomiinae) new to the Balearic Islands. *Entomologist's Gazette*, 66, 95-98.
- Kemal, M., Kızıldağ, S., & Koçak, A. Ö. (2020). On some Cybalomiinae from Turkey (Lepidoptera, Pyraloidea). *Centre for Entomological Studies Ankara*, 212, 1-10.
- Leraut, P. (2012). *Moths of Europe. Zygaenids, Pyralids 1 and Brachodids* (Vol. 3). NAP Editions.
- Nuss, M., Segerer, A., & Speidel, W. (2004). Crambidae, Pyralidae, Thyrididae. In O. Karsholt & E. J. Van Nieuurken (Eds.). *Fauna Europaea: Lepidoptera, Moths* (Fauna Europaea version 1.1). <http://www.faunaeur.org>.
- Sammut, P. (2020). *Systematic and Synonymic List of the Lepidoptera of the Maltese Islands*. Sunland Printers Limited.
- Varenne, T., & Nel, J. (2011). Description of *Mesophleps gallicella* n. sp. et première citation d'*Hyperlais cruzae* du sud de la France. *Revue de l'Association Roussillonaise d'Entomologie*, 20(2), 56-58.

*Aldo Catania

27, Rama-Rama, Triq Mons, Anton Cilia
MT-Żebbuġ, ŻBG3140
MALTA /MALTA
E-mail: aldocatania47@gmail.com
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7559-143X>

Anthony Seguna

68, 'Redeemer', Triq l-Emigrant
MT-Naxxar, NXR3200
MALTA / MALTA
E-mail: seguna@onvol.net
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6264-0690>

John J. Borg

National Museum of Natural History
Vilhena Palace, Pjazza San Publu
MT-Imdina, MDN1011
MALTA / MALTA
E-mail: john.j.borg@gov.mt
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0587-3682>

Paul Sammut

137/2, Dingli Road
MT-Rabat, RBT9023
MALTA / MALTA
E-mail: farfett@onvol.net
<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2019-9577>

*Autor para la correspondencia / *Corresponding author*

(Recibido para publicación / *Received for publication* 8-V-2024)

(Revisado y aceptado / *Revised and accepted* 10-VII-2024)

(Publicado / *Published* 30-VI-2025)

Derechos de autor: El autor(es). Este es un artículo de acceso abierto distribuido bajo los términos de la Licencia de Reconocimiento 4.0 Internacional de Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0) que permite el uso, distribución y reproducción sin restricciones en cualquier medio, siempre que se cite al autor original y la fuente. / **Copyright:** The author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.