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P. Sammut
CAPPERIA HELLENICA ADAMCZEWSKI, 1951, NEW TO THE MALTESE ISLANDS
(LEPIDOPTERA: PTEROPHORIDAE)
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Capperia hellenica Adamczewski, 1951, new to the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae)

P. Sammut

Abstract

Capperia hellenica Adamczewski, 1951 is reported for the first time from the Maltese Islands. The genus *Capperia* Tutt, 1905 is also recorded here for the first time from the Maltese Islands. Distribution, habits of the adult and larval host plant are included. A Maltese name is proposed for this new record.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae, *Capperia hellenica*, Malta.

Capperia hellenica Adamczewski, 1951, nueva para Malta
(Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae)

Resumen

Capperia hellenica Adamczewski, 1951 se cita por primera vez para Malta. El género *Capperia* Tutt, 1905 se cita también por primera vez para Malta. Se incluyen datos sobre su distribución, hábitat del adulto y la planta nutricia de la larva. Se propone un nombre maltés para esta nueva cita.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae, *Capperia hellenica*, Malta.

Introduction

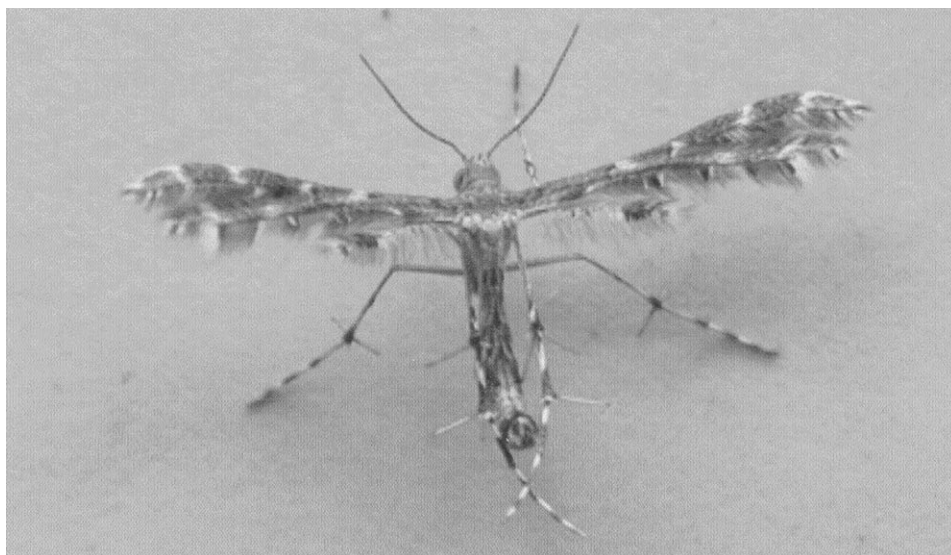
In the family Pterophoridae just over a thousand species have been described worldwide. Over half of these occur within the palaeartic region (HEPPNER, 1991). In Europe this family is represented by two subfamilies, Agdistinae with one genus and 23 species, and Pterophorinae with 31 genera and 115 species. Two other subfamilies, Ochyroticinae and Deuterocopinae occur within the tropics and have no European representatives (GIELIS, 1996).

In the Maltese Islands 23 pterophorid species have been recorded, seven in the Agdistinae and 16 in the Pterophorinae (SAMMUT, 2000). In the Agdistinae, two species, namely *Agdistis melitensis* Amsel, 1954 and *Agdistis symmetrica* Amsel, 1955 have been originally described as endemic to the Maltese Islands (AMSEL, 1954, 1955). *Agdistis melitensis* has been found also on Corsica while *Agdistis symmetrica* is known also from Tunisia (GIELIS, 1996).

The genus *Capperia* Tutt, 1905 is Holarctic and contains 11 European species, of which at least five are known from the Mediterranean region (GIELIS, 1996). Species in the genus *Capperia* appear to be monophagous or oligophagous on species of the family Lamaceae.

Material

MALTA, (1 ♂) Rabat 13-IX-2003 [GP. 4835 – Gielis] at light, leg. Paul Sammut.



Capperia hellenica Adamczewski, 1951 – MALTA, Rabat 13-IX-2003.

The species is known from the Mediterranean area, France, Spain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and Asia Minor (BIGOT & PICARD, 1996). The local larval hostplant is not known. Elsewhere it feeds on *Stachys recta* L. (BIGOT *et al.*, 1990). According to GIELIS (1996) the adults are on the wing between July and August. The Maltese specimen extends the flight period of the moth to at least the first half of September, unless this specimen does not represent a second and later brood.

Both genus and species are new to the Maltese lepidopterofauna. I propose the Maltese name Kap-perja tal-Greċja, after a transliteration of the scientific name.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr. Cees Gielis of Lexmond, The Netherlands, for his help in identification of the species and the preparation of the genitalia.

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P. S.
Fawkner, Dingli Road
Rabat, RBT 07
MALTA / MALTA

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