

Article XIV.—NOTES ON SOME SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN MOTHS.

By WILLIAM BEUTENMÜLLER.

The following notes are based upon types and specimens in the Hy. Edwards Collection, which is now the property of the Museum. With regard to the Western and Pacific Coast species of *Catocala* much is yet to be learned, and I hope to be able before long to give a more detailed account of the species from that section of country than is given in the present paper.

***Aëlopos fadus* (Cramer).**

An example of this southern species was taken at Summit, New Jersey, by Mr. Francis Child Nicholas, who kindly donated the specimen to the Museum.

***Oiketicus davidsonii* Hy. Edw.**

Head, legs, thorax and abdomen mouse brown, without any markings whatever. Fore wings mouse brown, with the veins darker. Hind wings uniform mouse brown.

This species was described from its larval-case only, and the moth has been hitherto unknown.

The above description was taken from an undeveloped specimen cut from a pupa of one of the types in the Edwards Collection, and may serve to identify the species. Hy. Edwards describes the larval-case as being about one and a half to one and three-fourth inches in length, a little thicker in the middle, and composed of pieces of sticks or twigs from one-third to one and a quarter inches in length, laid side by side longitudinally, one or two pieces nearly always extending posteriorly some distance beyond the termination of the case. The fragments with which

the case is covered are of different lengths, and are about fifteen in number, the interstices being filled with wood dust, closely woven into the silken ground work of the case. The edges of the pieces of wood are always neatly rounded by the larva, and all outstanding branches are bitten off.

The cases were collected at Mt. Diablo, California, on the branches of chinquapin chestnut (*Castaneopsis chrysophylla*). A rediscovery of the species is earnestly hoped for.

***Dasychira plagiata* (Walker).**

Acyphas plagiata WALKER, Cat. Het. B. M. Pt. IV, 1855, p. 799.

Dasychira atomaria WALKER, Cat. Het. B. M. Pt. VII, 1856, p. 1739.

Parorgyia clintonii GROTE & ROBINSON, Proc. Ent. Soc. Phil. Vol. VI, 1866, p. 3, pl. I, figs. 2 and 3.

Olene plagiata NEUMEGEN & DYAR, Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc. Vol. II, 1894, p. 58.

Regarding this species Mr. Hampson kindly sent me the following notes: "As far as the condition of the types allows me to judge, this is the same as *Parorgyia clintonii* G. & R. *A. plagiata*, type male, and *Dasychira atomaria*, type female, are without locality, but the male agrees fairly well with *clintonii*, of which we have four males, and the female agrees with a female we have from W. Canada."

***Catocala californica* Edw.**

Some time ago I called attention to the fact that this species had been made a variety of *C. electilis* Walker, but that *californica* was a good species, and *electilis* a Mexican species allied to *C. junctura* (Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc., Vol. IV, p. 98). A good figure of *C. electilis* was published by Mr. Druce in 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' Het. Vol. I, Pl. XXXI, fig. 8, and it is very distinct from *californica*. To verify my statement I asked Mr. Hampson, of the British Museum, to examine for me the type of *electilis* and to compare the same with *californica*. He writes me as follows: "Druce's figure represents *electilis* very well. It is much larger than *californica*, and without the dentate, white submarginal line. They are as distinct as any species in the group."

***Catocala electilis* Walker.**

Catocala electilis WALKER, Cat. Het. B. M. Pt. XIII, 1857, p. 1209; DRUCE, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Het. Vol. I, pl. xxxi, fig. 8.
Catocala cassandra HY. EDWARDS, Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. July, 1875.

The type of *C. cassandra* is a very much worn specimen, and it is without doubt the same as *C. electilis*. A specimen agreeing with the figure of *electilis*, given by Mr. Druce, is in the Hy. Edwards Collection, and another with the markings on the fore wings much heavier, is in the Angus Collection. Both are from Mexico. *C. sara* French (Can. Ent., XV, p. 163) has been made a synonym of *cassandra*, but the description does not agree with the type of *cassandra* nor with *electilis*. *C. babayaga* is probably a variety of *electilis*.

***Catocala meskei* Grote.**

Catocala meskei GROTE, Can. Ent. Vol. V, 1873, p. 161.
Catocala rosalia HY. EDWARDS, Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc. Vol. III, 1880, p. 55.

Rev. Geo. D. Hulst in his synopsis of the genus *Catocala* (Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc., Vol. VII, 1884, p. 45) places *C. rosalia* as a distinct species. It is, however, identical with *C. meskei*, and not even worthy of a varietal name. A specimen of *meskei*, compared and agreeing with the type, is in the Edwards Collection, as is also the type of *C. rosalia*.

***Catocala irene*, var. *virgilia* Hy. Edw.**

This is a good variety, and is not identical with the typical *irene* Behr, as placed by Rev. G. D. Hulst. An example of *irene* agreeing with the type and the types of the variety *virgilia* are in the Edwards Collection. *Irene* is brown, with the reniform spot very dark and surrounded by a cloud of a shade darker, and has a dark basal patch and an apical dash of the same color. The variety *virgilia* has the fore wings almost entirely suffused with dark brown, so as to nearly obscure the ground color and markings. The subterminal line is whitish and very distinct.

Catocala faustina, var. **carlota**, var. nov.

FIG. 1.

Fore wings almost entirely uniform whitish gray, middle portion whitish. The transverse lines very conspicuous and deep black. The one across the middle of the wing very angular and irregular in its course; a little below the middle it suddenly turns inwards for some distance, forming a distinct open loop. On the upper angle where the line turns inwards, rests a distinct black blotch. Subterminal line almost invisible. Terminal row of spots black. Hind wings rosy, with the band and border as in *faustina*. Expanse, 58 mm.

One female, No. 11908, Coll. Hy. Edwards.

Habitat: Sierra Nevada, California.

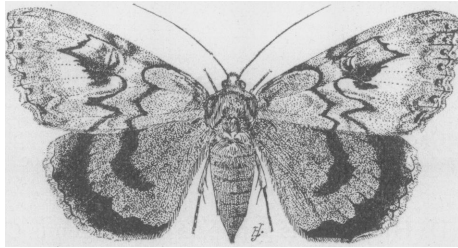


FIG. 1.

Catocala stretchii, var. **sierræ**, var. nov.

Fore wings very thickly scaled with black so as to almost entirely obscure the ground color and the transverse lines. The subterminal line is very distinct and dentate, creamy white, edged black outwardly. Hind wings same as in the typical *stretchii*.

Four specimens, No. 12653, Coll. Hy. Edwards.

Habitat: Sierra Nevada, California.

This variety bears the same relationship to *stretchii* as the variety *somnus* does to *C. luciana*. It may be easily known by its dark fore wings and light subterminal band.