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ANNOTATED LIST OF SOME NOCTUIDS TAKEN AT OLDS, N.W.T.

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By the kindness of Mr. James Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, I received recently a little lot of Noctuids in papers, "which," writes Mr. Fletcher, "I asked a friend (Mr. T. N. Willing) to collect for you at Olds, North-West Territory, about forty miles north of Calgary and about sixty miles east of the main chain of the Rocky Mountains." The specimens were not very well collected, and were in poor condition generally; but they are of great interest, nevertheless, and indicate something of the line of distribution of the species. I have received of Mr. F. H. Wolley Dod sendings of specimens from Calgary, which in part duplicate those received from Mr. Willing; but Mr. Dod's collections indicate a somewhat distinctive, more typically western fauna, while at Olds, the fauna is on the whole more northern and eastern. At Calgary the Atlantic and Rocky Mountain faunas join for some species, so that we get forms that are puzzling and intermediate in character; at Olds the northern and eastern types predominate so far as limited collection makes it possible to judge. None of the peculiar or new species taken by Mr. Dod at Calgary occur in this sending from Olds.

The specimens seem to have been collected at light, and the dates run from May 26 to September.2. More specifically, the dates are, May 26, June 3, 4, 20, 21, July 15, 18, 20, 21, 23,

24, 27, 28, 30, August 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, and September 2. The best date, or that on which most specimens were collected, is August 20.

RHYNCHAGROTIS RUFPECTUS Morr., August 18; one male specimen of normal type in all particulars. The species extends across the continent and occurs on the Pacific coast as far south as Los Angeles.

PACHNOBIA LITTORALIS Packard, July 18; one male. The specimen is unusually dark, the contrasts of the fore-wing well marked, but the transverse lines incomplete and somewhat indefinite. The species extends from Labrador into the Northern Rocky Mountain region, and has not yet occurred south of Colorado.

PERIDROMA OCCULTA Linn., August 5 (1); August 8 (1); September 2 (1). Apparently normal forms in all respects, but two of the three are very badly marred. The species occurs throughout the Northern and Eastern United States to Nova Scotia and the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

PERIDROMA ASTRICATA Morr., August 4 (1); August 5 (1); August 10 (1). All are females, in rather poor condition. In this species and in the preceding the badly marred specimens seem to have been papered while still alive, and the specimens oviposited in their envelopes. The larvæ hatched and apparently devoured most of the body of their parent, before themselves perishing. The distribution is much as in the preceding species.

NOCTUA COLLARIS G. & R., August 16 and 22; two male specimens. Both are large and rather dark forms, with the collar and shade between the ordinary spots well defined; but the other markings tending to become obscure. This is the most western record of this species. It is a typical northern and eastern form.

NOCTUA CLANDESTINA Harris, June 21 (2); July 20 (1); July 24 (2); July 30 (1); August 8 (1); August 20 (1). All are dark typical specimens, and vary only a little in size. A well

marked eastern form, without the least tendency to the *havitæ* type, which is marked in some Calgary examples.

CHORIZAGROTIS BALINITIS Grote, July 15 (1); July 24 (5); July 23 (1); July 27 (2); July 28 (1); August 2 (1); August 2 (1); August 5 (1); August 6 (1); August 14 (1); August 21 (1). Evidently a common species in this locality and probably close to its true home. It has been also recorded from Calgary, British Columbia, and the Mountains of Colorado. I have two specimens labelled "California," but without more exact data. I have never had the opportunity of examining so many specimens of this species before, and find that, as in the others of the genus, there is very little variation except in the distinctness of the markings; well defined in some, almost obsolete in others. The males run smaller as a whole than the females. While the species has a casual resemblance to *messoria* in appearance, it is easily distinguished by the wing form and and by the smooth, somewhat glistening vestiture.

FELTIA SUBGOTHICA Harv., August 20; one male only, of the normal type. This species occurs throughout North America.

CARNEADES RIDINGSIANA Grote, August 20; three male specimens of the normal type. They agree with each other and with specimens from other localities. This species has been heretofore recorded from Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, and is therefore somewhat of the south-western type.

CARNEADES DISSONA Moeschler, August 20; two males. I make this identification with some doubt, but the specimens seem different from *munis*, and are not *opipara*. The only point in which they fail to agree with typical *dissona* is, that the woolly clothing of the underside is not blackish. On the other hand, it is darker than in *munis*, and I am inclined to believe that we have to do with a local form of Moeschler's species. It will require further material to make this certain, however. Moeschler's species has been thus far recorded from Labrador only.

CARNEADES INSULSA Walker, August 6 and 11; two males. They are in bad condition, but show more red than usual in the ground color. The species occurs throughout the northern and mountainous regions of North America.

CARNEADES TESSELLATA Harris, August 2; one male, one female. They are somewhat different from the usual eastern type, but are unfortunately too poor to serve for purposes of critical comparison. The species occurs throughout North America north of Mexico.

CARNEADES REDIMICULA Morr., August 20; two males, offering nothing unusual. The species is here at the most north-western limit recorded.

MAMESTRA PURPURISSATA, G. & R., August 20; two males in such condition that determination was barely possible. This is the most north-western limit thus far recorded.

HADENA LATERITIA Hfn., July 21 (1); July 27 (1); August 25 (1). The late specimen is a female; but none offer anything worthy of special remark. The species has not yet been recorded from any point west of the Rocky Mountains.

HADENA IMPULSA Morr., July 21; one specimen of usual type. This is a typical northern and eastern species, but also occurs, rarely, in Texas.

HADENA DEVASTATRIX Brace, July 18 and 21: two male specimens. The examples are unusually well marked and the black ornamentation is so contrasting as to obscure the recognition of the species at first sight. Occurs throughout North America.

ORTHOSIA CONRADI Grote, August 4 (1); August 5 (1); August 14 (1); August 17 (1); August 20 (1); four males and one female. I am not quite certain of this determination, because the species of this genus have not yet been satisfactorily studied. They do not seem to be congeneric, and I suspect that one species figures both as a *Xylophasia* and as an *Orthosia*. Of the specimens before me no two are quite alike, and the female is of a much brighter red-brown than any other specimen

I have ever seen. Heretofore the species has not been recorded anywhere nearly so far north-west.

CIRROEDIA PAMPINA Gn., August 27 ; one specimen of the normal form. Mr. F. H. Wolley Dod has taken at Calgary a series of a remarkably pale form of this species which gives a strange impression and seemed, at first, to indicate a good species. More abundant material, however, proved it to be a local and by no means constant variety, intergrading with the typical form.

DRASTERIA DISTINCTA Neum., May 26 (2) ; June 3 (1) ; June 4 (1) ; June 20 (1). This interesting little form seems to have its home in this region. It has been referred as a variety of *crassiuscula*, and may eventually prove to be such. I have a specimen of *crassiuscula* from Long Island that would easily pass for *distincta*, except that it lacks that the peculiar livid or bluish tinge that allies *distincta* to *cærulea*. The latter species is recorded from California, but I have it also from Oregon, Washington, Vancouver and British Columbia. Calgary seems to be the point of meeting between *crassiuscula* and *cærulea*, and *distincta* appears to be intermediate between the two. Larger collections to the east and to the west of this locality will prove of great interest.

PHILOMETRA GAOSALIS Wlk., August 4 ; one male of normal type. The species is here close to the recorded western limit of its range.



Smith, John Bernhard. 1896. "Annotated List of Some Noctuids, taken at Olds, N. W. Territories." *The Ottawa naturalist* 10(3), 49–53.

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