British Museum (Natural History)

EXOTIC MOTHS

SERIES No. 2

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 11

One Shilling

a

b

c

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Leucophlebia xanthopis* (b) *Lepisesia flavofasciata ulalume*
 (c) *Basiotbia medea*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Produced by W. F. Sedgwick, Limited

POST CARD.

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MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE

STAMP.

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Lerina incarnata* (b) *Cyana coccinea* (c) *Cyana isabella*

Natural size

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Pseudosphex rubripalpus* (b) *Metarctia lateritia*

(c) *Empyreuma pugione*

Natural size

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a

b

c

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Adelocephala albolineata* (b) *Anisota dissimilis*

(c) *Adelocephala sinaloana*

Natural size

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a

b

c

d

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Arniocera erythropyga* (b) *Thymara caudata*
(c) *Pseudopsyche dembowskii* (d) *Clelea syfanica*

Natural size

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EXOTIC MOTHS.

SERIES No. 2.

In this series are shown various moths from different parts of the world. One card shows three hawk-moths, vastly different in colour and structure, two from Africa and one from North America. Another card shows three moths of the family Syntomidæ, represented in Europe by only one species which does not occur in the British Isles. The first example of the Syntomidæ shown is remarkable for its resemblance to a wasp living in the same part of the world; the resemblance is so marked that when the insects are flying the one might be mistaken for the other, even by an experienced observer. Three members of the American family Ceratocampidæ, to be seen on another card, show striking differences of colour and pattern. The families Charideidæ and Zygaenidæ are represented by a card showing four moths; the first is a Charideid from Nyasaland, the second *Thymara caudata*, a Zygaenid with remarkable modifications in structure, whilst the other two are Zygaenidæ rarely seen in collections.

E 71 (a). *Leucophlebia xanthopis*.

This beautiful hawk-moth is not well known, though an allied species is somewhat more common. It is found in East Africa, but nothing is yet known of its early stages.

E 71 (b). *Lepisesia flavofasciata ulalume*.

This uncommon moth from British Columbia belongs to the family Sphingidae. Various forms of the species *flavofasciata* are found over a large part of the United States and Canada. The moth flies at dusk, coming to the lilac blossoms, etc., in gardens, and it has been seen flying rapidly in the daytime amongst the spruce about twenty or thirty feet from the ground. The caterpillar feeds on *Epilobium* (Willow-herb, known in Western Canada as "fireweed," on account of its regular appearance wherever the forests are burnt down). Up to the last stage it is green with a red and black horn, but during the last stage it is olivaceous-black dotted with sooty-black granules, with slight dorsal and sub-dorsal velvety-black chequerings, and without lines. The horn is replaced by an elliptical button. It goes down into the ground to pupate.

E 71 (c). *Basiotbia medea*.

A moth of unusual colouring, belonging to the family Sphingidae (Hawk-moths). It is found over that part of Africa south of Egypt and the Sahara. The caterpillar is pale green with seven triangular dorso-lateral spots, which are brown above and yellow below, the spot of the eleventh segment elongate and extended on to the horn. The spot on the first abdominal segment is larger than the others, and bears a black and white eye-like spot, while each of the other spots has three white points on its brown area. The subspiracular line is pinkish-white, with patches of brown points above it at each segmental junction. The food-plants are *Spermacoce natalensis* and *Richardsonia pilosa*.

E 72 (a). *Pseudosphex rubripalpus*.

This curious moth from Brazil belongs to the family Syntomidae, and resembles a wasp. A number of species of the genera *Pseudosphex* and *Sphecosoma* bear an extraordinary resemblance to wasps, so much so that sometimes naturalists are unable to tell whether they have a wasp or a moth in the net, until the insect has been killed and examined carefully. The caterpillar of this moth is unknown.

E 72 (b). *Metarctia lateritia*.

This beautiful African moth belongs to the family Syntomidae. The caterpillar of only one species of *Metarctia* is known, and that somewhat resembles our British "Woolly Bear" caterpillar.

This richly coloured moth is found in Jamaica, and belongs to the family Syntomidae. The caterpillar is yellow-brown with subdorsal, lateral and sublateral series of small sepia-edged white spots, and the segments bearing subdorsal, lateral and sublateral warts with radiating barbed hairs, and having additional paired dorsal warts and small warts above the sublateral series on the abdominal segments. The second and third thoracic segments bear long black-tipped barbed hairs directed forward, and the eighth abdominal segment has two backwardly directed long black-tipped tufts from the paired dorsal warts. It feeds on Oleander.

This moth belongs to the family Arctiidae, and is found in Mexico and Arizona. The caterpillar is yellowish-white, with black warts covered with foxy-red hair. It feeds on *Asclepias pumila*.

This pretty little Indian moth belongs to the subfamily Lithosiinae (family Arctiidae). The specimen shown is a male: the female is larger, with the fore-wing ground-colour white, with transverse black lines and pink bands. The caterpillar has long barbed hair, which, when it is full-fed, it spins into a beautiful, fragile, open-network cocoon, in the centre of which, suspended on fine silken threads, it turns into a chrysalis.

A richly coloured species of the genus *Cyana* (Arctiidae, subfamily Lithosiinae). It is found in the Solomon Islands, and is remarkably different from the typical species of the genus, the usual coloration being white, with black dots or lines, and pink bands. The early stages of this species are unknown.

This fine moth belongs to the family Ceratocampidae, which is peculiar to the New World. The specimen figured comes from Mexico. The caterpillar of this species is not yet known, but those of related species are usually large green caterpillars with four long spines on each of the second and third thoracic segments, and a single spine or horn on the eighth abdominal segment.

E 74 (b).

Anisota dissimilis.

This is a member of the family Ceratocampidae. The male, which is here shown, differs from the female in being smaller and in having black hind-wings. The larva is not known, but the caterpillars of the moths in this genus usually have two long spines on the second thoracic segment. This species comes from Mexico.

E 74 (c).

Adelocephala sinaloana.

This is a Mexican species of the family Ceratocampidae. The larva is unknown, but that of a closely related species is about two inches long, apple green, with long, pink white-tipped, spinose tubercles on the second and third thoracic segments, and small cuneiform, silvered and pink-tipped tubercles on the abdominal segments, with a long, spinose, white-tipped, pink tubercle or horn on the eighth segment. The spiracles are black, and the subspiracular line violet-lavender.

E 75 (a).

Arniocera erythropyga.

This pretty little moth belongs to the family Charideidae, a family related to the Zygaenidae (Burnets). It comes from Nyasaland and the surrounding regions. The whole family, which is a small one, is African. Nothing is known of the early stages.

E 75 (b).

Thymara caudata.

This curious little Indian moth belongs to the Zygaenid subfamily Himantopterinae. About half of this subfamily comprises species with tailed hind-wings, the other half having the wings normal. The caterpillar is said to live in the nests of Termites.

E 75 (c).

Pseudopsyche dembowskii.

This delicately tinted moth belongs to the subfamily Phaudinae (family Zygaenidae) and occurs in May and June in Amurland. Its early stages are unknown. The form *dembowskii* is tinted yellow, whilst the form *oberthueri* (here figured) is tinted red.

E 75 (d).

Clelea syfanica.

This rare moth from Western China belongs to the family Zygaenidae. It flies in April and May, but nothing further is known of its life-history.

Set E 11.

February, 1924.