

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

VOL. 30

NOVEMBER, 1928

No. 8

NOTES ON CACTUS MOTHS ALLIED TO *MELITARA*, WITH
TWO NEW GENERA AND ONE NEW SPECIES.

BY HARRISON G. DYAR.

In *Ins. Ins. Mens.*, xiii, 224, I commented upon the structure of the palpi in *Melitara*, *Olyca* and *Cactobrosis*. My conception of *Olyca* was founded upon *pectinatella* Hampson, since the type of the genus, *phryganoides* Walker was not then before me. I have now several specimens of the species. The male palpi are upturned, the first joint moderately tufted at tip, the third joint short, about one-third the second. In the female the palpi are long, porrect and downturned, the first joint only with a tuft at tip, much as in *Cactoblastis* female. The antennae are simple in both sexes, ciliate in the male. *Olyca pectinatella* does not share these characters, and I am therefore removing it to a new genus as below.

Mr. A. P. Dodd has referred to the food plants and habits of many of the species here mentioned in a paper entitled "The Biological Control of Prickly Pear in Australia," Commonwealth of Australia, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Bulletin No. 34, Melbourne, 1927.

Genus *MELITARA* Walker (*prodenialis* Walker).

The palpi are long and porrect in both sexes, occasionally oblique, the first joint with an apical tuft, the second joint with slight tuft in the male, distinct in the female; third joint long in the male. Antennae pectinate in both sexes.

Melitara prodenialis Walker.

Melitara prodenialis Walker, Cat. Lep. Het. Brit. Mus., xxvii, 137, 1863.

Atlantic coast region from New Jersey to Florida, more abundant southward.

Melitara prodenialis bollii Zeller.

Zophodia bollii Zeller, Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, xxxii, 550, 1872.

Smaller than *prodenialis*, whiter and smoother, from Texas; but I hesitate to give it full specific rank, although Mr. A. P. Dodd does so.

Melitara dentata Grote.

Zophodia dentata Grote, Can. Ent., viii, 158, 1876.

The antennal pectinations are shorter in both sexes than in *prodenialis*. I have specimens from Colorado, Texas and Arizona.

Melitara doddalis Dyar.

Melitara doddalis Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., xiii, 13, 1925.

Close to *dentata* Grote, but generally more white-suffused. The specimens are from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Melitara parabates Dyar.

Melitara parabates Dyar, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xlv, 322, 1913.

The male antennae are quite lengthily pectinated, but those of the female are simple. The type was from San Luis Potosi, Mexico. I have a series of specimens from the coast of southern California and from Arizona.

Genus **OLYCELLA** Dyar, new (**junctolineella** Hulst).

Antennae pectinated in both sexes as in *Melitara*; female palpi smooth and porrect with tuft on first joint as in *Olyca*; male palpi upturned, tufts on first and second joints, the third joint quadrate and nearly as long as second.

Olycella junctolineella Hulst.

Melitara junctolineella Hulst, Can. Ent., xxxii, 173, 1900.

Olyca pectinatella Hampson in Ragonot, Mem. sur les Lep., Romanoff, viii, 35, 1901.

I have specimens from Colorado, Texas and Mexico (Monclova, Coahuila, September, 1926, E. Mortensen and Jalapa, type of *pectinatella*).

Olycella nephelepasa Dyar.

Olyca nephelepasa Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., vii, 55, 1919.

Olyca subumbrella Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., xiii, 14, 1925.

Specimens from Mexico and New Mexico do not differ. Darker than *junctolineella*, but very similar.

Genus **OLYCA** Walker (**phryganoides** Walker).

Olyca phryganoides Walker.

Olyca phryganoides Walker, Cat. Lep. Het. Brit. Mus., xi, 726, 1857.

This variably colored species occurs in Haiti and Santo Domingo.

Genus **CACTOBLASTIS** Ragonot (**cactorum** Berg).

Male palpi upturned with large tufts at apices of first and second joints, the third joint long; antennae of the female long, porrect, scarcely tufted. Antennae simple, ciliate in the male. Maxillary palpi broadly fan-shaped as in the preceding genera.

Cactoblastis cactorum Berg.

Zophodia cactorum Berg, An. Soc. Cien. Arg., xix, 276, 1885.

Specimens are before me from Argentina and Uruguay.

Cactoblastis leithella, new species.

Mr. Leith F. Hitchcock of the Australian Prickly Pear Investigations collected a number of specimens in Curacao (Danish West Indies), Venezuela and Colombia, which he sent me for identification. These were unfortunately lost in the mail and a single female from Curacao only remained, which is before me. It agrees well with the female of *Cactoblastis cactorum*; but upon sending this identification to Mr. Hitchcock, he replied as follows: "The habits of this insect are very distinct from *Cactoblastis cactorum* from Argentina and Uruguay. In the first place the larva is a different color, resembling *Olyca* more than *Melitara* and totally distinct from *Cactoblastis*. In the second place the larva in question is solitary, while *Cactoblastis* is gregarious; it also pupates singly inside the joints, while *Cactoblastis* pupates in numbers outside the joints."

Type, female, No. 41184, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Curacao, D. W. I.

Cactoblastis bucyrus Dyar.

Cactoblastis bucyrus Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., x, 16, 1922.

The specimens are from Argentina.

Genus **CACTOBROSIS** Dyar (**elongatella** Hampson = **fernaldalis** Hulst).

In this genus the maxillary palpi are slender, filiform. It is the only genus so characterized among those here mentioned.

Cactobrosis fernaldalis Hulst.

The synonymy has been given in Ins. Ins. Mens., xiii, 223, 1925. Specimens are before me from Arizona and several points in Mexico. The antennae of the male are strongly pectinated, simple in the female. The palpi in both sexes are strongly upcurved, slender, without or with but slight tufting at the joints.

Cactobrosis maculifera Dyar.*Cactobrosis maculifera* Dyar, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xlvii, 407, 1914.

The antennae are serrate and fasciculate rather than pectinate in the male, simple in the female. From Oaxaca, Mexico.

Cactobrosis insignatella Dyar.*Cactobrosis insignatella* Dyar, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xlvii, 407, 1914.

I have yet to see a male. These may be only large plainly colored specimens of *fernaldalis*. From the same locality in Mexico as the male *maculifera*, but they do not look like the same species.

Cactobrosis phoenicis Dyar.*Cactobrosis phoenicis* Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., xiii, 223, 1925.

In this and the following species the male antennae are very shortly serrate and ciliate. The male type only before me, Palm Springs, California.

Cactobrosis interstitialis Dyar.*Cactobrosis interstitialis* Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., xiii, 223, 1925.*Cactobrosis strigalis* Barnes & McDunnough.*Euzophera strigalis* Barnes & McDunnough, Can. Ent., xlv, 127, 1912.*Cactobrosis leuconips* Dyar.*Cactobrosis leuconips* Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., xiii, 224, 1925.

This and the three preceding species have been discussed in the preceding reference.

Cactobrosis creabates Dyar.*Olyca creabates* Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., xi, 29, 1923.

I have only the single male type. The antennae are simple, ciliate. The palpi are upturned, thicker than in *Cactobrosis*, yet distinctly more slender than in *Olycella* and with less pronounced tufts at the joints. It is intermediate between the two genera in wing-shape also.

Cactobrosis (?) *ponderosella* Barnes & McDunnough.*Olyca ponderosella* Barnes & McDunnough, Cont. Nat. Hist. Lep. N. A., iv, 175, 1918.

This is known from a single female from the same locality as *Cactobrosis phoenicis*. They may be sexes of one species, though the wing-shape of *ponderosella*, as shown in the figure, seems too broad. The female has white hind wings as with *phoenicis*.

Genus **PAROLYCA** Dyar, new (**asthenosoma** Dyar).

Male antenna with one row of long pectinations, decreasing to obsolescence at three-fourths, the other row of short pectinations. Labial palpi upturned, slender, the first joint with a large projecting tuft, third similar to the second and over half as long. Maxillary palpi slender, slightly bristly with narrow scales at tip.

Parolyca asthenosoma Dyar.

Olyca asthenosoma Dyar, Ins. Ins. Mens., vii, 55, 1919.

The single male type from French Guiana is the only specimen known.

SOME NEW MOTHS FROM ARIZONA.

BY E. V. WALTER, *Associate Entomologist, U. S. Bureau of Entomology.*

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS.

BY H. G. DYAR.

For seven years previous to October, 1926, the writer operated a trap light at the U. S. Entomological Laboratory at Tempe, Arizona. During this time a large number of new species of moths were collected.

A few of the more conspicuous and outstanding new species are described below. All specimens used in these descriptions were collected at this one light, except those credited to other localities. The latter were found among the undetermined material in the U. S. National Museum and turned over to the writer by Dr. H. G. Dyar for description.¹

The description of the new genus *Callostolis* Dyar was given to the writer by Dr. Dyar to be published in this paper.

Lygranthoecia viridens, n. sp.

Head and thorax white, tegula with a median longitudinal green band; abdomen light ochreous. Frons and palpi light ochreous. Fore wings pale olive green crossed by three white bands, the first strongly angulated outward to the black discal spot and edged inwardly on lower three-fifths with black; the second slightly curved, narrow in front, widening back of vein 5 and edged outwardly with black; subterminal line narrow; terminal row of well separated crescent-shaped black dots; fringe greenish. Hind wings white with broad terminal band of pale green flecked with black. Under side of fore wings white; discal spot black, more distinct than above; terminal band green; subterminal band green strongly peppered with black; a third

¹After descriptions were made and before types could be deposited in the National Collection dermestids damaged some of the specimens, but in no case to such an extent as to make the types unrecognizable.



1928. "Notes on cactus moths allied to *Melitara*, with two new genera and one new species." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 30, 133–137.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54812>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/55387>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.