

NEW RECORDS OF LEPIDOPTERA FROM THE UNITED STATES  
(ARCTIIDAE, GEOMETRIDAE, EPIPLEMIDAE)

DOUGLAS C. FERGUSON

Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA,  
c/o U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Collections of moths that I have recently examined from various sources included five species hitherto unreported from the continental United States, or indeed from anywhere in America north of Mexico. One of these is an especially interesting species described from Siberia; the others are of neotropical distribution. Their occurrence in this country is believed to be natural, not a result of introduction by man. They are as follows.

## Arctiidae

*Hyperborea czekanowskii* Grum-Grshimailo*Hyperborea czekanowskii* Grum-Grshimailo, 1900: 464.*Phragmatobia czecanousci* Hampson, 1920: 349-350.

One male specimen of this species (Fig. 1) was collected on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska and sent to me for identification by Dr. Kenelm W. Philip of Fairbanks, who recognized it as something unusual. It bears the following data: Grassy delta near mouth of Serpentine River 20 mi. SE of Shishmaref, Seward Peninsula, Alaska, 25 June 1970, W. Foster. I had expected that this would prove to be an undescribed species, but found that it so closely matches the description and figure of *H. czekanowskii* in Seitz (1910: 103, pl. 18h) that there can be little doubt as to its identity. Seitz gave for its distribution only the Tunguska River [in central Siberia], but I found on consulting the original description that the type series consisted of 17 males and one female for which were given the following data: Valley of the lower Tunguska River, 1873; valley of the Olenek River between the lower Tomba and the Alakit, July, 1874; valley of the Adytscha [Adycha] River at its confluence with the Jana [Yana], July 3-4, 1885. The spellings in brackets are as given on recent National Geographic Society maps. The Adycha River locality is closest to Alaska, being about 1,700 miles west of the Seward Peninsula and slightly farther north.

*H. czekanowskii* is the monobasic type-species of the genus *Hyperborea*, which Grum-Grshimailo proposed for his new species in the same paper. Although it has very much the appearance of an *Apantesis* species, the antennae are peculiar, appearing nearly simple on comparison with the bipectinate male antennae of all known species of the genus *Apantesis*

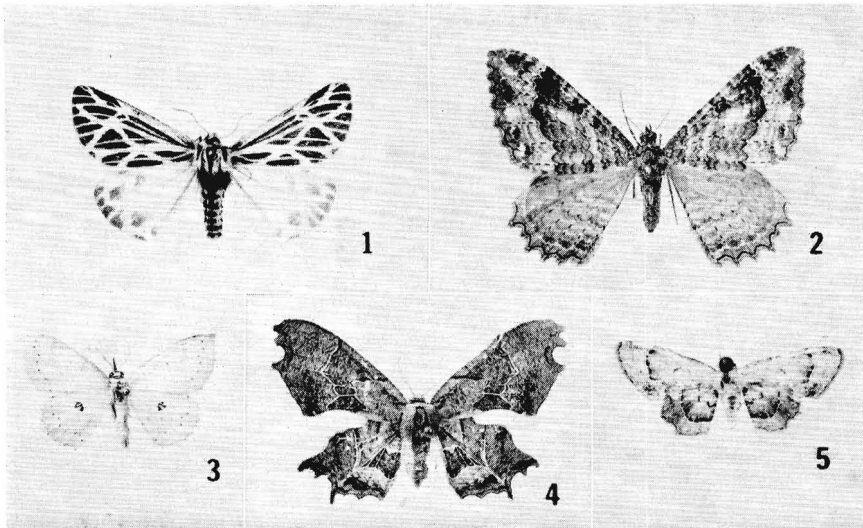


FIG. 1-5. 1, *Hyperborea czekanowskii* ♂, Seward Peninsula, Alaska (full data in text); 2, *Triphosa affirmata* ♀, Guatemala; 3, *Semaepus cantona*, holotype ♂, Orizaba, Mexico; 4, *Erosia incendiata* ♀, Kingsville, Texas, 15 November 1968, J. E. Gillaspay; 5, *Antiplecta triangularis* ♀, Brownsville, Texas (full data in text). (Figs. 1-4 natural size; Fig. 5 twice natural size.) Photographs made by photographic laboratory of National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

Walker. The male antennae of *czekanowskii* are slender but biserrate, with a large bristle arising from the end of each process, and with the shaft setose ventrally and quite heavily scaled dorsally. The eyes are reduced, as would be expected of an arctic species with diurnal flight habits. The body is more slender than is usual in *Apantesis*, although not as slender as it appears in Seitz's figure, and the hindwings are somewhat subhyaline. The moth is rather colorless compared to most species of this group; the forewing is blackish, traversed with pale lines as in *Apantesis*; the hindwing is dull whitish with dark gray-brown spots, and the abdomen is banded with the same shades except for a small caudal tuft of yellow hair. In the region where it occurs, *czekanowskii* is likely to be confused only with *Apantesis quenseli* (Paykull), or possibly with *A. turbans* (Christof), both however stouter-bodied, differently marked species with pectinate male antennae. Also, *czekanowskii* is unlike any species of *Apantesis* in our fauna in having two strongly oblique pale lines meeting the inner margin of the forewing. Although I suspect that this species may fit just as well in the genus *Apantesis*, I leave it for the present as originally proposed. As the Alaskan specimen is the only one

available, I prefer not to remove the abdomen for genital dissection until it has been figured in color for *The Moths of America North of Mexico*.

Hampson (1920: 349) placed this species in the genus *Phragmatobia*, but it does not appear at all closely related to the group that includes the type-species, *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* (L.). Hampson also changed the spelling of the species name to *czecanousci*, this being an unjustified emendation which is a junior objective synonym of the name in its original form.

#### Geometridae

##### *Semaeopus cantona* (Schaus)

*Cnemodes cantona* Schaus, 1901: 192.

*Semaeopus cantona* Prout, 1936: 88, pl. 11e.

Several specimens of this species were collected in the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo, Texas by Mr. and Mrs. André Blanchard. The specimen that I examined was a male, taken 20 October 1970, and it appeared to agree exactly with the type in the collection of the U.S. National Museum from Orizaba, Mexico (Fig. 3). The Texas specimens are all in the Blanchard collection.

##### *Triphosa affirmata* (Guenée), new combination.

*Scotosia affirmata* Guenée, 1857: 447, pl. 9, fig. 2 (not *affirmaria* Walker, 1860).

I identified and returned to Mr. Charles P. Kimball a very rubbed female of this species taken at Homestead, Florida, 29 March 1969 (C. E. Hallas collection). It is a neotropical species described from Brazil but known from Mexico to Argentina. The specimen illustrated (Fig. 2) is from Guatemala.

#### Epiplemidae

##### *Erosia incendiata* Guenée

*Erosia incendiata* Guenée, 1857: 35, pl. 8, fig. 4.

A female of this species in very nearly perfect condition was found resting on the brick wall of the Department of Biology building at Texas A & I University, Kingsville, Texas, on 15 November 1968, and kindly donated to the U.S. National Museum by the collector, Dr. J. E. Gillaspay. The species is widespread in the neotropics from southern Mexico, including Yucatan, to French Guiana and Brazil. There is a good series in the U.S. National Museum mostly from Jalapa, Orizaba and Cordova, Mexico, Costa Rica and French Guiana. It was described from Brazil. The species is sexually dimorphic, which will help to explain the dif-

ference between the Texas specimen (Fig. 4) and the male figured by Guenée. The red coloring on the hindwing in Guenée's illustration is greatly exaggerated.

*Antiplecta triangularis* Warren

*Antiplecta triangularis* Warren, 1906: 401.

A single poor specimen in the collection of the United States National Museum taken at Brownsville, Texas, "March 27: 28," at light, F. H. Benjamin (Fig. 5), appears to agree exactly with the type material of this species from Orizaba, Mexico, also in the U.S. National Museum. Benjamin had tentatively identified it, but as far as I know the record was never published. The specimen is a female. A closely related but obviously different species of *Antiplecta* occurs in southern Florida, and this one is probably undescribed. An example loaned to me for study by Mr. Charles P. Kimball was taken on Key Largo, 20 July 1962.

After this paper was submitted, I found additional material of *Antiplecta triangularis* in the collection of Mr. André Blanchard at Houston. A series of fresh specimens of both sexes was taken at the Santa Ana Refuge, Hidalgo Co., Texas, 14 November 1971.

LITERATURE CITED

- GRUM-GRSHIMAILO, G. 1900. Lepidoptera nova vei parum cognita regionis palaearticae. *Annuaire du Musée Zoologique de l'Académie impériale des Sciences de St. Pétersbourg*, 4(1899): 455-472.
- GUENÉE, A. 1857. *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes, Species Général des Lépidoptères*, 10: 1-584, illus. Paris.
- HAMPSON, G. F. 1920. *Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenae in the British Museum*, Suppl. 2, xxiii + 619 p., 30 pl.
- PROUT, L. B. 1932-38. *Die Amerikanischen Spanner (incomplete)*. In Seitz, *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Band 8: 1-144, 17 pls. Alfred Kernen, Stuttgart.
- SCHAUS, W. 1901. *New Species of Geometridae from Tropical America*. *Trans. American Entomol. Soc.* 27: 165-194.
- SEITZ, A. 1910-12. In Seitz, *Macrolepidoptera of the World*, 2, Palearctic Bombyces and Sphinges, 479 p., 56 pls. Alfred Kernen, Stuttgart.
- WARREN, WILLIAM. 1906. *Descriptions of new genera and species of South American geometrid moths*. *Proc. U.S. National Museum*. 30: 399-557.