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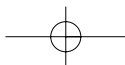
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Eteobalea dohrnii (Zeller, 1847) a new moth for the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Cosmopterigidae)

A. Seguna & P. Sammut

Abstract

Eteobalea dohrnii (Zeller, 1847) is here recorded for the first time in the Maltese Islands. Notes on the distribution, habitat of the adult and the food plant of the larva are included. Further records of *Anatrachyntis badia* (Hodges, 1962) are also included.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Cosmopterigidae, *Eteobalea dohrnii*, *Anatrachyntis badia*, Gozo Is., Maltese Islands.

Eteobalea dohrnii (Zeller, 1847) una nueva polilla para Malta (Lepidoptera: Cosmopterigidae)

Resumen

Eteobalea dohrnii (Zeller, 1847) se cita por primera vez en Malta. Se incluyen notas sobre la distribución, hábitat de los adultos y la plata nutricia de la larva. Se incluyen también futuras citas de *Anatrachyntis badia* (Hodges, 1962).

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Cosmopterigidae, *Eteobalea dohrnii*, *Anatrachyntis badia*, isla de Gozo, Malta.

Introduction

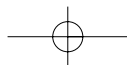
The Genus *Eteobalea* has a mainly Holarctic distribution. From Europe 14 species have been recorded (KOSTER & SINEV, 2003). On the Maltese Islands only one species apart from this, *Eteobalea intermediella* (Riedle, 1966) has been recorded so far and which is quite common in the Maltese Islands (KOSTER & SAMMUT, 2006).

Material Studied

MALTA, Gozo Is., 1 ♂, Marsalforn, Qbajjar area, 25-V-2006 [at light], A. Seguna leg (in coll. Seguna)

This moth is widely distributed in the Mediterranean, occurring in Portugal, the Balearic Is., Spain, France and Corsica, mainland Italy, Sardinia and Sicily, Greece, Crete and Cyprus, and Croatia (SINEV & KOSTER, 2004).

The larvae are known to feed on the roots of *Plantago albicans* L (Plantaginaceae). Locally the larval host plant has not been identified. However, the genus *Plantago* is represented in the Maltese archipelago by no less than 9 species (HASLAM *et al.*, 1977) and *Plantago coronopus* L., is very common in the area from where *Eteobalea dohrnii* has been recorded. On the continent it flies from May till early October in two generations (KOSTER & SINEV, 2003).



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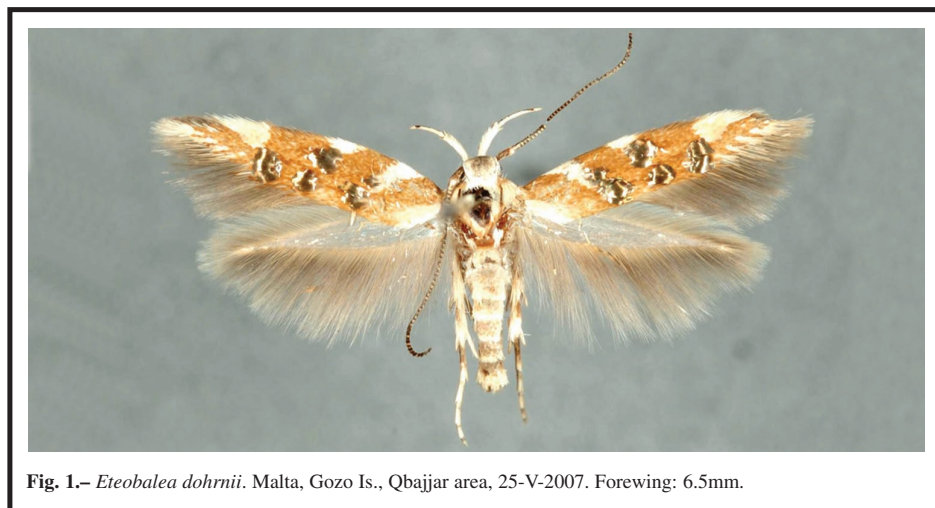


Fig. 1.— *Eteobalea dohrnii*. Malta, Gozo Is., Qbajjar area, 25-V-2007. Forewing: 6.5mm.

Conclusion

To date the species is known from the Maltese Islands only from this single specimen. It could have reached the island of Gozo by migration. Successive visits to the same area have not produced further specimens.

Anatrachyntis badia (Hodges, 1962) has to date been recorded from the Maltese Islands from two specimens collected by Bjare Skule from Mellieha (KOSTER & SAMMUT, 2006). The authors suggest that this species has been introduced to Malta and that a population might have established itself here due to the subtropical climate. Four further specimens have been recorded by the authors; one from Dingli 3-VI-2006 (coll. Sammut), one from Rabat, 3-IV-2007 (coll. Sammut), the other two are one from Dwejra, 12-V-2007 and one from Naxxar, 14-V-2007 (coll. Seguna).

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank Dr. J. C. Koster for confirming the identity of the species and to Dr. Antonio Vives for preparing the Spanish text.

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