

## Notes and Descriptions of New Zealand Lepidoptera.

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[Read before the Nelson Philosophical Society, 12th September, 1928;  
received by Editor, 25th September, 1928; issued separately,  
16th November, 1928.]

*Erebia merula* Hew., *Ent. Mo. Mag.*, 12, 10 (1875); *Oreina othello*  
Fered., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 8, 302 (1876).

OUR largest *Erebia* is commonly known as *E. pluto* Fereday, but a study of the literature shows that its proper name is *E. merula* Hewitson. In a paper entitled "Observations on a Paper read by Mr. A. Bathgate before the Otago Institute, 11th January, 1870, 'On the Lepidoptera of Otago'" (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 4, 214 (1872)), Fereday writes as follows, "I may also mention a black butterfly found on the bare summits of the snowy mountains. . . . I believe it to be a species of *Erebia* and have named it *E. pluto*." These remarks do not constitute anything more than casual mention and the single word "black," especially in the absence of a figure, cannot be termed a description. Four years later (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 8, 302), Fereday published a very full description of the butterfly, accompanied by a figure, which bore the legend "*Oreina othello* n. sp.," the alteration in the name originally proposed being accounted for by "pluto" being preoccupied. In the meantime, however, Hewitson, the British lepidopterist, had received an example of the species from Herman Strecker of Pennsylvania and had described it as *E. merula* in the *Ent. Mo. Mag.* for June, 1875 (p. 10), thus antedating Fereday's *othello* by nearly a year. In December, 1876, Butler published an article on the butterflies of New Zealand in the *Ent. Mo. Mag.* (vol. 13, p. 152) and adopted the name "pluto," giving as a reason for discarding Hewitson's\* *merula* that "although Mr. Fereday only describes this species as black, not mentioning the ocelli, his name will have to stand, since there is no other black *Erebia* in New Zealand." Butler, it should be noted, does not give the reference to "pluto" but a full reference to *othello*, a circumstance which seems to indicate that he regarded the actual describing of the species to date from 1876; and it is the date of such description which alone matters. I do not think there is any reading of the *International Rules* which could be interpreted as validating a specific name supported only by the words "I may also mention a black butterfly."

## LYCAENIDÆ.

*Chrysophanus feredayi* Bates, *Ent. Mo. Mag.*, 4, 53 (1867); *U. enysii*  
Butler, *Ent. Mo. Mag.*, 13, 153 (1876).

Owing apparently to some confusion on the part of A. G. Butler the name *enysii* has been commonly adopted for Bates's *feredayi*. At

\*Butler gives the year 1874 as the date of Hewitson's paper; it should be 1875.

the reference quoted above Bates described his species as differing, among other characters, from *C. edna* (a synonym of *C. sallustius* Fabr.) by the colour of the undersides of the hindwings, which he stated were "yellow, with a broad curved discal patch and a wide posterior border (confluent at the apex) violet-brown." Nine years afterwards Butler (see above reference) described *enysii*, but his description seems to be only an amplification of Bates's diagnosis of *feredayi*, a species he treats as separate without further comment. Fereday, who had supplied Bates with the type material, published a paper in 1878 (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 10, 252) in which he figured upper and under sides of *C. feredayi*, the drawings, though uncoloured, quite satisfactorily showing the characteristic markings. In the same volume (p. 263) Butler had an article in which he redescribed and figured his *enysii* as well as Bates's *feredayi*. These figures show that he had confused the species. Figures 4, 5 and 6 (pl. 12) represent *C. enysii*; 4 is apparently a dark specimen of *C. sallustius* Fabr., 5 is the unmistakable underside of *feredayi*, while 6 is the upper-side of the same species. Figures 7, 8 and 9 are devoted to *C. feredayi*. But none of them at all agrees with Bates's description; it is impossible to reconcile the markings of either upper or under-sides with the characters as given by the describer of the species. A further point which strengthens the conclusion arrived at above is that Butler describes *feredayi* as having "the whole ground colour of the secondaries brown," a statement directly at variance with Bates's description. As a matter of fact there is a race of *sallustius* in which the undersides of the hindwings are uniformly brown, the upper-surfaces of the forewings being much darker than in the typical form. It seems not improbable that Butler founded his *enysii* on an example of this race (which may ultimately prove to be a good species) and a specimen of the true *feredayi*. It should be noted that Longstaff (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 44, 115) pointed out that Bates's name had priority and that the types, which are in the British Museum, were clearly conspecific.

I found *C. feredayi* very abundant in a lowlying piece of mixed forest on the shores of Lake Rotoroa. This was early in January, and the specimens were all in fresh condition.

#### NOCTUIDAE.

*Ectopatria aspera* (Walk.), *Cat.*, 11, 601 (1857); *E. provida* (Walk. *Cat.*, 15, 1737 (1858); *E. canescens* (Walk.), *Cat.*, 33, 757 (1865).

It is 70 years since Walker described his *provida*, the specimen being from Auckland. Seven years later he named another Auckland specimen of the same species, *canescens*. Both these names are, however, synonyms of his *aspera*, an Australian species described in 1857. As far as I am aware, no specimens of *aspera* have been captured since the Auckland examples were secured, but I have now to record the taking of 3 males and 3 females at Nelson during the past season. Three of these were secured by Mr. E. Gourlay and the others by myself, the dates of capture ranging from the last week in October to the third week in March.

I am indebted to Mr. Meyrick for the determination of the species and for full information as to the synonymy. The species has been described and figured by Hampson (*Cat. Lep. Phal. B.M.*, 4, 654, pl. 77, 27). A brief diagnosis is given below.

♂ ♀. 36-38 mm. Forewings and thorax whitish-grey; basal, 1st and 2nd lines obscure, waved, interruptedly margined with black; stigmata margined with black; claviform elongate, orbicular round or oval, reniform constricted at middle; two or three black dashes in centre of suterminal area. Hindwings in ♂ white with broad fuscous area round apex and termen; in ♀ wholly fuscous.

The ♂ has a dense truncate tuft of hair on the middle tibia, a character which Hampson seems to have overlooked.

**Aletia mitis** (Butl.), *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1877, p. 383, pl. 42, 5; *Aletia gourlayi* Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 53, 337.

After re-examination of the type of *gourlayi* (now in the Canterbury Museum) I believe the above correction to be necessary.

**Aletia dentata** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 54, 148.

In his recent finely illustrated monograph, *The Butterflies and Moths of New Zealand*, Hudson treats this species as a synonym of *A. cuneata* Philp. I am unable at present to accept this emendation, *dentata* being a smaller and darker insect than *cuneata* and, indeed, superficially more nearly approaching *panda* Philp. Unfortunately, no male of *dentata* has been available for genitalia examination.

**Melanchra pictula** (White), *Te Ika a Maui*, pl. 1, 3 (1855); *M. rhodopleura* (Meyr.), *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 19, 19 (1887); *M. rhodopleura* Huds., *N.Z. M. and B.*, p. 19, pl. 4, 38; *M. rhodopleura* Sunley, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 43, 129; *M. rhodopleura* Meyr., *Trans. N. Z. Inst.*, 44, 100; *M. rhodopleura* Huds., *B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 63, pl. 7, 32.

**M. meyricki** (Hamps.), *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (8), 8, 421 (1911); *M. pictula* (Butl.) nec White, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1877, 386, pl. 42, 1; *M. pictula* (Meyr.) nec White, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 19, 18; *M. pictula* Huds. nec White, *N.Z. M. and B.*, p. 19, pl. 4, 37; *M. pictula* Ham. nec White, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 43, 117 and 119; *M. pictula* Meyr. nec White, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 44, 100; *M. pictula* Huds. nec White, *B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 63, pl. 7, 33.

The synonymy of these two species hinges on which form White's figure refers to. There cannot be the least doubt that the figure represents the species without the white reniform and with the wholly fuscous hindwings, that is, the *rhodopleura* of Meyrick. Longstaff (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 44, 110) indicated the correct nomenclature, but did not refer to the synonymy of the two species, and the majority of New Zealand collectors still use the erroneous names.

**M. furtiva** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 663.

Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 66) treats *furtiva* as a variety of *M. mutans* Walk., remarking that "specimens of the female (of *mutans*) from high altitudes are often more silvery than those from the lowlands and this form has been recently described . . . under the name of *Melanchnra furtiva*." It is, however, the male of *furtiva* which differs most from *mutans*; the female is often only separable with difficulty. Apart from the ground-colour of the forewings in the males—in *mutans* dull brown tinged with reddish or ochreous, in *furtiva* clear pinkish-brown—there are good structural differences in the antennae, *furtiva* having the ciliations appreciably longer than *mutans*. The harpes (valvae) of the two species are figured in *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 665, and it will be seen that here also the structural differences are sufficiently marked.

#### HYDRIOMENIDAE.

**Hydriomena praerupta** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 50, 125.

Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 100) considers this to be a variety of *H. callichlora* Butl. The species are certainly much alike superficially and it is not easy to pick out definite distinguishing characters, but when series of each are compared the difference of facies is apparent. The male genitalia, for the most part, exhibit only slight differences, but the shape of the tegumen, as viewed from above, is sufficiently striking; the absence of a chitinized gnathos in *callichlora* and the strong basal chitinization of the organ in *praerupta* is also conclusive for specific separation (see Figs. 1 and 2).

**Xanthorhoe eupitheciaria** Guen., *Ent. Mo. Mag.*, 5, 95.

Referred by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 113), with some doubt, to *X. cinerearia* Dbld. Examination of the male genitalia shows that the species is more widely separated from *cinerearia* than from *X. semisignata* Walk. and *X. plumbea* Philp. (see Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6).

**X. obscura** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 53, 338.

Originally I described this form as a subspecies of *X. helias* Meyr., but I am now prepared to admit it to full specific rank.

**Notoreas zopyra** Meyr., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 16, 89.

Hudson (*M. and B. N.Z.*, p. 126) has united this with *N. brephos* Walk., at the same time very accurately pointing out the distinctions between the two forms. The male genitalia, however, show many pronounced differences. The uncus is apically blunt in *brephos*, sharp in *zopyra*; the lobes of the juxta (cristae) are quite different in the two species, while the harpes (see Figs. 7 and 8) exhibit several distinguishing features.

**Dasyuris austrina** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 58, 359.

An excellent figure of this species (as a var. of *D. hectori* Butl.) is given by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, pl. 15, 20).

SELIDOSEMIDAE.

*Selidosema fluminea* Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 56, 389; *S. productata* Walk. var., Huds., *B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 139, pl. 48, 26.

Both *productata* and *fluminea* are subject to considerable variation, but I have not met with any examples which could not be referred to one or the other species without hesitation. The antennal pectinations of *fluminea* are slightly shorter than those of *productata* and the male genitalia offer good distinguishing features (see Figs. 9, 10, 11 and 12).

PHYCITIDAE.

*Homoeosoma farinaria* Turner, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Q.* (1903) 128.

I am indebted to Dr. A. Jefferis Turner for the determination of this species, which has long been confused (in New Zealand) with *H. vagella* Z. Dr. Turner informs me that though originally described from Tasmania it occurs also in Queensland and New South Wales. In New Zealand the species is not uncommon, though apparently somewhat local. It has been taken in both Islands and records extend from Invercargill in the South to Cambridge in the North. It is seldom found by day, but is a frequent visitor to lighted windows, under which circumstances it occurs from early November to the beginning of May. Recently the moth has been bred out freely in the Cawthron Insect Laboratory from larvae found feeding on the ragwort (*Senecio Jacobaea*) at Cambridge, N.I. The true *vagella* Z., which is a smaller and more obscure insect, is comparatively rare, though it has been known to occur in New Zealand for about 30 years.

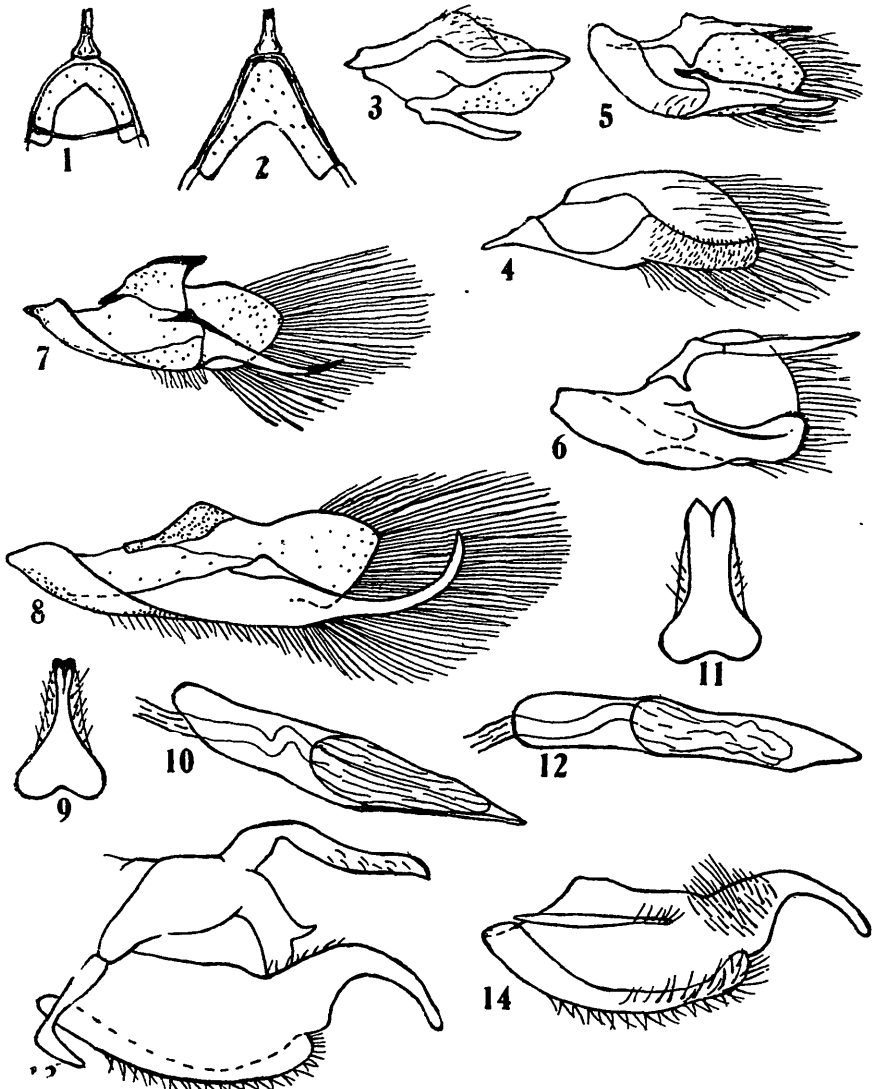
PTEROPHORIDAE.

*Platyptilia indubitata* new name.

I propose the above name for *P. ferruginea* Philp. (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 54, 150) preoccupied by *ferruginea* Walshingham *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1897, p. 35). Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 207) considers *indubitata* to be a synonym of *falcatalis* Walk., but apart from coloration, the species are easily distinguished by structural characters. In *falcatalis* there is always a prominent tooth of black scales in the fringes of the forewings at  $\frac{3}{4}$  and a similar patch in the hindwings just beyond the middle; these scale-patches are not present in *indubitata*.

*Platyptilia pulverulenta* Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 54, 149.

This species is also treated by Hudson (at previous reference) as a synonym of *falcatalis*; it differs, however from that species in the same way as does *indubitata*. It is possible, however, that *pulverulenta* and *indubitata* are the same species, in which case *pulverulenta* has page priority.



- FIG. 1.—*Hydriomena praerupta* Philp. Dorsal view of upper part of tegumen.  
 FIG. 2.—*H. callichlora* Butl. Dorsal view of upper part of tegumen.  
 FIG. 3.—*Xanthorhoe eupitheciaria* Guen. Harpe, from within.  
 FIG. 4.—*X. cinerearia* Dbl. Harpe, from within.  
 FIG. 5.—*X. plumbea* Philp. Harpe, from within.  
 FIG. 6.—*X. semisignata* Walk. Harpe, from within.  
 FIG. 7.—*Notoreas zopyra* Meyr. Harpe, from within.  
 FIG. 8.—*N. brephos* Walk. Harpe, from within.  
 FIG. 9.—*Selidosema fluminea* Philp. Juxta.  
 FIG. 10.—*Selidosema fluminea* Philp. Aedeagus.  
 FIG. 11.—*S. productata* Walk. Juxta.  
 FIG. 12.—*S. productata* Walk. Aedeagus.  
 FIG. 13.—*Borkhausenia sinuosa* Philp. Male genitalia, lateral view.  
 FIG. 14.—*Borkhausenia sinuosa* Philp. Harpe, from within.

TORTRICIDAE.

**Epichorista fraudulenta** (Philp.), *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 58, 363.

Originally described as an *Eurythecta*.

**E. abdita** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 664.

Considered by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 238) to be a synonym of *E. emphanes* Meyr. Reference to the figures of the male genitalia (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 665) will show markedly different structural peculiarities.

**Tortrix incendiaria** (Meyr.), *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 54, 164.

As intimated in "The Male Genitalia of the New Zealand Tortricidae" (published elsewhere in this volume) I propose the removal of this species from *Ecclitica* to *Tortrix*.

**Gelophaula vana** n. sp.

♂. 26-29 mm. Superficially extremely like *G. siraea* Meyr., but a larger and less bright insect. The yellow median stripe of the forewings is not so bright as in *siraea* and tends to be more suffused, not infrequently occupying nearly all the lower half of the wing. The fringes of the hindwings are usually yellowish tinged, not white as in *siraea*.

♀. 29-32 mm. Forewings pale yellow sprinkled with fuscous, the venation clearly marked in a paler tint. Hindwings white, dusted with grey except apically.

Hunter Mountains. Abundant at about 4,000 feet in December and January. For figures of the male genitalia see an article in this volume dealing with the New Zealand Tortricidae. Holotype (♂), allotype (♀) and a series of paratypes in coll. Cawthron Institute.

**Ecclitica torogramma** (Meyr.), *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1897, 388.

Reference to an article on the male genitalia of the Tortricidae, to be found elsewhere in this volume, will show that I have thought it necessary to transfer this species from *Tortrix* to its present position.

**Cnephasia fastigata** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 48, 442.

Originally described as a *Tortrix*; I now place it in this genus.

EUCOSMIDAE.

**Raumatia** n. g.

Antennae in male minutely ciliated. Palpi moderate, second segment thickened with scales above and beneath, terminal segment short. Thorax without crest. Forewings, in male with costal fold; smooth; termen very oblique; 3, 4, 5 equidistant at origin, 11 from before middle of cell, 10 much nearer 9 than 11 (in *trimaculata* only slightly). Hindwings with 7 veins, 5 absent, 6 and 7 approximated towards base, cubital pecten very slight. Male genitalia with harpes

large, neck incurvation strong, spines absent or very small; uncus feeble, simple or bifid; socii plate-like; gnathos absent; aedeagus rather small, nearly straight, apex scoop-shaped.

Genotype.—*Eurythecta potamias* Meyrick.

The genus is erected for the reception of the following three species.

*R. potamias* (Meyr.), *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 41, 11.

*R. varia* (Philp.), *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 48, 421.

*R. trimaculata* (Philp.), *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 47, 198.

The last-named species does not well agree with the others generically and it may yet have to be separated therefrom.

#### OECOPHORIDAE.

**Borkhausenia xanthodesma** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 54, 151.

A species treated by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 261) as a synonym of *B. compsogramma* Meyr. There can, however, be no doubt as to the distinctness of the two, the male genitalia being widely different (see Figs., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 56, *xanthodesma* p. 409, *compsogramma* p. 410).

**B. melanamma** Meyr., *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1905, 240.

Under this species Hudson includes, with a query, *B. sabulosa* Philp. and *B. terrena* Philp. There is little doubt as to the validity of *terrena* (compare genitalia figures of *terrena*, (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 56, 392) with those of *melanamma* (*ib.* 56, 412)). In the case of *sabulosa* no examination of the genitalia has been made, but the species is superficially unlike *melanamma*.

**B. sinuosa** n. sp.

♂. 17-19 mm. Head and thorax clear yellow. Palpi yellow, second segment mixed with fuscous without. Antennae greyish-fuscous, ciliations in ♂  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Abdomen greyish-white, anal tuft ochreous. Legs ochreous-white, anterior pair strongly infuscated. Forewings elongate, costa well arched, apex rounded, termen obliquely rounded; clear yellow; costa at base narrowly edged with brown; fringes concolorous with wing. Hindwings and fringes whitish-grey.

Superficially hardly separable from *B. enodis* Philp., though the costa is rather more arched and the apex more rounded. The male genitalia, fortunately, offer good differentiating characters, the shape of the uncus being, as far as I am aware, unique among New Zealand members of the genus (see Figs. 13 and 14 of this article for *sinuosa* and *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 58, 85, Fig. 3, for *enodis*).

Wellington, in December. Two males taken in the Botanical Gardens. Holotype (♂), paratype and a slide of male genitalia in coll. Cawthron Institute.

**Locheutis pulla** n. sp.

♂. 13-14 mm. Head fuscous, neck ochreous. Palpi fuscous, second segment mixed with ochreous. Antennae fuscous, ciliations



in ♂ 2. Thorax bronzy-fuscous. Abdomen leaden-fuscous, bronzy-fuscous dorsally. Legs leaden-fuscous mixed with ochreous, tarsi obscurely annulated with ochreous. Forewings moderate, costa moderately arched, apex obtuse, termen oblique; brownish-fuscous; costal edge ochreous; stigmata obscure or absent, plical at about  $\frac{1}{2}$ : fringes concolorous with wing. Hindwing fuscous, fringes paler.

A darker species than *vagata* Meyr. and at once distinguished by the shorter antennal pectinations.

One male taken at Lake Rotoroa about the middle of January and two others secured on Mount Cedric at an elevation of 4,000 ft. Holotype (♂), paratypes and a slide of male genitalia in coll. Cawthron Institute.

#### PLUTELLIDAE.

##### *Protosynaema matutina* n. sp.

♂. 10 mm. Head and thorax purplish-brown. Palpi ochreous white. Antennae purplish-brown with some white scales, in ♂ strongly thickened with scales, to near apex. Abdomen greyish-fuscous. Legs purplish-fuscous, tarsi annulated with white. Forewings with costa moderately arched, apex rectangular, termen slightly rounded, oblique; purplish-fuscous mixed with bright brown and purplish-white; a broad metallic green striga from costa near base, outwardly oblique and reaching to fold, anteriorly and posteriorly broadly margined with dark purplish-fuscous; a similar striga at  $\frac{1}{2}$ , reaching across wing, outwards curved, anteriorly broadly margined with bright brown mixed with black on median portion, posteriorly more narrowly margined with bright brown; an irregular striga of same colour from tornus to middle of wing, margined with brown; a metallic green line round termen, anteriorly margined with blackish: fringes bright brown. Hindwings greyish-fuscous, darker apically; fringes greyish-fuscous.

Differs structurally from *P. steropucha* Meyr. in the unindented termen of the forewing and from *P. quaestuosa* Meyr. in the much more extensive thickening of the antennae.

Mount Arthur Tableland, early in November. A single male taken at about 4,500 ft. Holotype in coll. Cawthron Institute.

#### TINEIDAE.

##### *Archyala opulenta* Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 56, 398.

Considered by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 341) to be identical with *A. terranea* Butl. The resemblance between the two is fairly close, but the male genitalia disprove specific identity (see *Figs. Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 58, 94).

##### *Mallobathra angusta* n. sp.

♂. 20 mm. Head and palpi tawny. Antennae brown mixed with ochreous, ciliations in ♂ 2. Thorax and abdomen purplish-brown. Legs purplish-brown mixed with ochreous, tibiae and tarsi annulated with ochreous. Forewings elongate, narrow, costa moder-

ately arched, apex rounded, termen strongly oblique; ochreous; strigulated throughout with dark purplish-fuscous; a blotch of purplish-fuscous on costa at middle and a similar one on dorsum beneath; fringes fuscous-grey. Hindwings dark fuscous; fringes fuscous-grey, paler apically.

The largest of the genus yet described. The long but narrow wings sufficiently separate it from any other species.

A single male taken in November at about 3,000 ft. on the Mount Arthur Tableland track. Holotype in coll. Cawthron Institute.

***M. strigulata*** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 214.

This species is considered by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, 352) to be synonymous with *M. crataea* Meyr. The members of the genus are often superficially much alike, but in the case under consideration there exist good genitalia characters for differentiation (see Figs., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, *crataea*, p. 98, *strigulata*, p. 100). *M. fenwicki* Philp. (*ib.* 55, 214) is also treated by Hudson (same reference) as equal to *crataea*, but in this instance material for dissection has not been available. I should, however, consider this form to be more nearly related to *M. homalopa* Meyr. than to *crataea*.

#### MNESARCHAEIDAE.

***Mnesarchaea similis*** Philp., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 667.

This species is treated by Hudson (*B. and M. N.Z.*, p. 367) as a synonym of *M. hamadelpha* Meyr., but as noted in the original description of *similis*, there are good differentiating characters in the male genitalia. The colour and markings of the two forms, though similar, are by no means identical. The basal fuscous stripe on the costa of the forewing is apically pointed in *hamadelpha*, but blunt or suffused in *similis*; also, the thorax is ochreous in *similis*, white in *hamadelpha*. For figures of the genitalia see *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 55, 666 and *ib.* 57, 714, pl. 57, 22 and 23. It is possible, however, that *similis* Philp. may really be *hamadelpha* Meyr. which would leave the insect usually regarded as that species without a name. Steps will be taken to ascertain the position.