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 EDITED BY  
 J. W. TUTT, F.E.S.

ASSISTED BY  
 RICHARD S. BAGNALL, F.E.S., T. HUDSON BEARE, B.SC., F.E.S., F.R.S.  
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 GEORGE WHEELER, M.A., F.E.S.

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### Another British example of *Xylophasia zollikoferi*.

By J. W. TUTT, F.E.S.

Probably one of the most elusive of the Noctuids occasionally captured in Britain is *Xylophasia zollikoferi*. Up to date only some four specimens have been captured in Britain, full details concerning the first two of which were published in *The British Noctuae and their Varieties*, vol. i., pp. 71 *et seq.*, whilst a third was noted as captured by Lofthouse at Linthorpe, near Middlesborough, on September 26th, 1908 (*Naturalist*, p. 456; *Ent. Rec.*, xv., p. 345; *Ent. Rec.*, xvi., p. 24). This last was figured by Barrett (*Lep. Brit. Isles*, pl. 424, fig. 5), and has more the appearance in figure of *Nonagria arundinis (typhae)* than the species it is intended to represent, owing to the width of the wing on the outer margin. Lofthouse, in recording his specimen, states that "he sugared in his garden throughout the autumn, and on September 26th captured a large Noctuid, which has proved to be *Xylophasia zollikoferi*, particularly worthy of note as having been taken at the time that large numbers of *Pyrameis cardui* was noticed all along the coast here from Redcar to Sunderland." So far as this is a suggestion that *X. zollikoferi* is an occasional immigrant, which appears to be absolutely certain, the reference to *P. cardui* is weak, as the latter immigrates here in May and June, and the autumn specimens are no doubt home-bred from immigrating parents.

The earliest example was captured by Harding, at Deal, in October, 1867, the second by Tait, at Inverurie, a few miles from Aberdeen, in September, 1871. The former specimen is in the "Doubleday coll.," at the Bethnal Green Museum, whilst the latter was, when *The British Noctuae and their Varieties*, vol. i., was published, still in Tait's possession. The first was commented on by Doubleday (into whose possession it passed) (see *Brit. Noct.*, i., p. 71), the second by Buchanan-White (*Scot. Nat.*, i., pp. 267-8, and quoted in *Brit. Noct.*, i., p. 71). Freyer, in his *Neuere Beiträge, etc.*, pl. 184, figs. 1-2, figured and described the species in 1836, and it was then figured by Herrich-Schäffer (*Schmett. v. Europa*, figs. 103-104). These figures of Continental examples are all rather different from Harding's and Tate's examples which we described as *ab. pallida* (see *Brit. Noct.*, i., p. 72), and Buchanan-White notes (*Scot. Nat.*, i., p. 268) that Herrich-Schäffer's fig. 103 is more like the Inverurie specimen (*i.e.*, our *ab. pallida*), and further observes that H.-Schäffer's fig. 104 looks almost like a different species. This latter has quite a different appearance, though a similar facies, being strongly marked with black longitudinally in the discal area of the wing, and hence having quite a lineated appearance.

Recently Mr. A. Plunkett, of Norwich, asked me to name a Noctuid that he could not place, and sent the specimen through Mr. H. J. Turner for this purpose. As soon as I saw it I recognised it as another example of *X. zollikoferi*. The specimen was captured on September 4th, 1905, at Carrow, near Norwich, considerably worn, but superficially not at all unlike Herrich-Schäffer's fig. 104, the discal area is dark (had probably been blackish-grey) on which the nervures and outlines of the reniform and orbicular stand out in the pale, somewhat fawn, ground colour, the outer margin is also strongly shaded with

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dark grey, as well as the cuneiform marks; the hindwings nearly white with a grey outer marginal band, and grey discoidal. The specimen appears to be a ♀. It is a pity that one of the British examples has not been risked for eggs as we believe the life-history of the species is quite unknown.

Mr. Plunkett writes (September 27th, 1910) concerning his capture, "I took the moth at light, it was sitting quietly under a large electric lamp fixed on the corner of a building, at rest on the brickwork about 12 feet from the ground; I have curiously taken *Nonagria arundinis* (*typhae*) at the same place before and since, the locality, however, is only about 50 yards from the bank of the Wensum, and open meadow land and marshes extend quite to Yarmouth. When the specimen was pushed off the wall it was skittish, and flew several yards before alighting on the ground, a habit very different from that of *N. arundinis*, which, being disturbed under similar conditions, drops down like a stone. This really was the first reason I had for suspecting the insect was not *N. arundinis*."

There are only five examples (all ♂s) in the British Museum coll., all quite pale in form, and with the exception of the dark shading in the lower part of the discoidal cell, practically without any darker markings. These are labelled "Hungary," "Sarepta (Christoph)" (two), "Kurusch (Christoph)," and "Tura (1903)." Herrich-Schäffer's fig. 104 represents a ♀; Mr. Plunkett's example also appears to be a ♀. One wonders whether the dark *striata* form is confined to the latter sex. But Herrich-Schäffer's figure shows quite a red tint (*rufescens*) lacking altogether in Mr. Plunkett's specimen.

Rebel (*Berge's Schmett.*, 9th ed., p. 195) says that it flies in Middle Europe in September and October is "very rare near Berlin, Dresden, Chur (Switzerland), Chodan (Bohemia), Lemberg (Galicia), also occurs in Hungary, England, and the Ural district, more common in Central Asia." He adds that "Nothing is known of the early stages." Staudinger gives as its distribution: "Berolinum (2), Helvetia (1), Anglia (2), Halicia (1), Hungaria, Ural, Tura oc., Korla, Kaschgar."

### Notes on Micro-Lepidoptera of South-west London.

By ALFRED SICH, F.E.S.

Though it is not yet quite the fashion to collect the Tineina, I am glad to find that several entomologists do take an interest in these small insects, and keep those they happen to capture. This looks hopeful, and, perhaps, in time, we shall have quite a good number interested in this group, instead of about two dozen as at present. This season, 1910, has been too cold and sunless for the tastes of the Tineina, yet the few bright days have yielded some interesting species. In Chiswick, on April 21st, I noticed the larvæ of *Bucculatrix cristatella* were feeding, in their last stadium, on *Achillea millefolium*. Later I had the pleasure of watching one larva spin its peculiar cocoon. Two cases of *Coleophora albitarsella* were found, May 11th, on *Nepeta glechoma*, as usual among nettles. I have never yet succeeded in gathering these cases without stinging my hands. In the third week in May *Nepticula pygmaella* and *N. ignobilella* appeared among the hawthorns. On June 16th *Ornix guttea* was seen at rest on an apple trunk. A few days later I took two *Argyresthia brockeella*. It is