

# An annotated list of Lepidoptera known from the Faroe Islands

Nágreiniligt yvirlit yvir firvaldar í Føroyum

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## Úrtak

Í yvirlitinum yvir firvaldar í Føroyum eru 108 sløg, tey eru 51 fleiri nú enn í fyrra yvirlitinum frá 1970. Trý sløg (*Colias crocea*, *Pieris brassicae* og *Nymphalis antiopa*) eru bara skrásett, at vera sædd. Millum tey 108 sløginu eru 12 roknað sum tilvildarlig, 40 koma henda vegin sum ferðafirvaldar og 56 føroysk uppruna sløg.

## Abstract

The present checklist enumerates 108 Lepidoptera species, known from the Faroes, an increase of 51 species since the former checklist in 1970. Three of the species (*Colias crocea*, *Pieris brassicae* and *Nymphalis antiopa*) have only been recorded as observations. Among the 108 species 12 are regarded as casual, 40 as vagrant or migrating species, and 56 as indigenous resident species.

In 1970 the late Dr. N.L. Wolff at the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen (ZMUC) published a revised checklist of the lepidopterous fauna of the Faroe Islands. The list enumerated 57 species, including the two butterflies, *Inachis io* L. and *Aglais urticae* L., which in the list were considered as accidentally introduced (Wolff, 1970).

During the years from 1970 to 1990, only scattered field work on lepidoptera was carried out. Consequently little information has been published with regard to this part of the Faroe fauna. From this period information has been obtained regarding six lepidoptera species, which were new to the Faroe fauna: In 1971, the Danish dental surgeon and lepidopterist Mr. Ole Sandvej served his military duties on the Royal Marine Station in Tórshavn. Among the lepidoptera which were collected during his stay, there was a specimen of the common cloth moth *Tineola bisselliella* Hummel. In 1973 during an outbreak of the well-known migrant hawkmoth *Hyles galii* Rott. a specimen was recorded from Nólsoy (Kaaber, 1974). During 1978 and 1979 a Swedish-Norwegian zoological team made a survey of certain terrestrial invertebrate groups, mainly Coleoptera, Araneae, Lumbricidae and terrestrial Gastropoda, see Bengtson and Hauge (1979). During the field work a male specimen of the noctuid moth *Photodes stigmatica* Ev. was found in 1978 in a

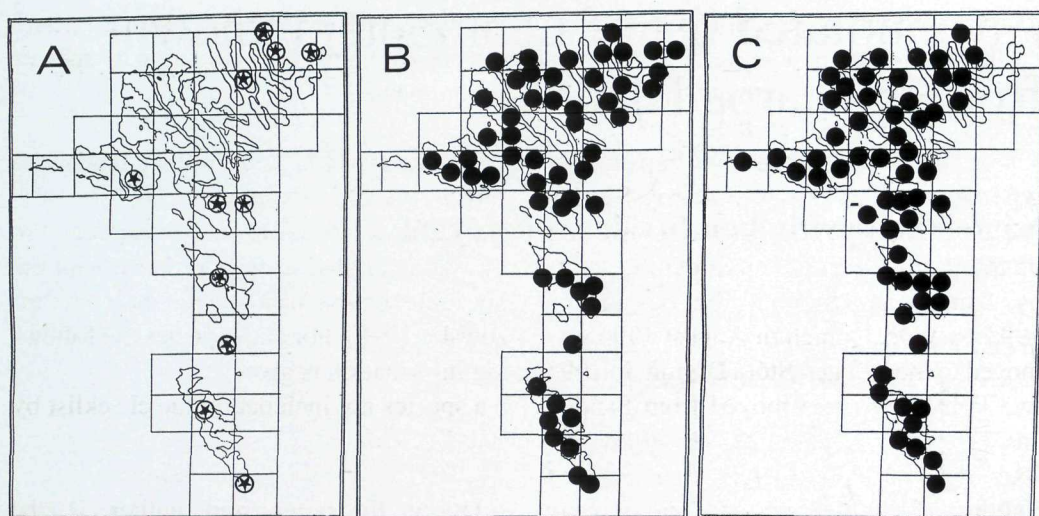


Fig.1 Location of sites for lepidoptera collecting on the Faroe Islands during 1990-1997.

10x10 km UTM-grid system is shown on the maps.

Støðir í Føroyum, har firvaldar vórðu savnaðir í árunum 1990-1997.

10x10 km UTM-puntaskipan sæst á kortunum.

A. Collecting sites using automatic light traps.

Støðir við ljósfellum.

B. Collecting sites during field work in early and mid summer (June 5 – July 19).

Støðir har kanningar fóru fram tíðliga á sumri og hásumri (5. juni – 19. juli.

C. Collecting sites during field work in late summer (July 20 – August 28).

Støðir har kanningar fóru fram seint á sumri (20. juli – 28. august.

pitfall trap placed in the dune area on Sandoy, see e.g. Bengtson (1982). In 1984 the Finnish entomologist Dr. Seppo Koponen carried out a study on the herbivorous insect fauna in the few and scattered Faroese plantations. During the field work a small colony of the casebearer moth, *Coleophora serratella* L. was found in Tórshavn (Koponen, 1985). In July 1987 the present author (SK) paid a two week visit to the Faroes, during which a number of lepidoptera were collected. On a visit to the southernmost part of Suðuroy, a population of the gelechiid *Scrobipalpa samadensis* Pfaff

was discovered and one specimen obtained. And in an article on interesting bird observations during 1989, a note on the butterfly *Nymphalis antiopa* L. on Nólsoy June 3, 1988 was also included (Jensen, 1990).

In 1990 a more systematic study was initiated by the present author, in collaboration with the acarillogist and soil invertebrate specialist, Mr. Peter Gjelstrup (PG) from the Museum of Natural History (NM) in Aarhus and with Føroya Náttúrugripasavn (FN) in Tórshavn. The major aims were to study the lepidopterous fauna of the various ecological niches on the islands and



to assess the role of lepidoptera migrations on the native fauna. The latter aspect was assessed with use of automatic light traps with a 250 W Halogen bulb as attracting source. In 1990-92 three light traps of this type were used on sites on Suðuroy, Sandoy and on Streymoy near Tórshavn. In 1993-95 four traps were used on Streymoy, Nólsoy, Sandoy and Suðuroy, besides one in 1993 on Viðoy, which in August 1994 was moved to the isolated Stóra Dímun. In 1996 two light traps were moved from Sandoy and Streymoy to new sites on Viðoy and Skúvoy. In 1997 the light trap sites on Suðuroy, Stóra Dímun and Viðoy were closed down, but three light traps have been in use on the northeastern isles Fugloy and Kunoy, and on the western island Vágur. All light traps have been operative from May-June and onwards to November. They have been emptied with weekly intervals and their content sent by post to SK for determination and preparation. The material will later on be distributed between both museums. The field studies have included annual visits of two weeks duration, from the middle of June to the end of August. During these visits different habitats have been visited on most Faroe isles, and collecting work has been made, mainly during daytime. Fig.1 shows the location of the light traps and the collecting areas visited. During the study period from 1990 to 1997 46 lepidoptera species, previously unknown to the Faroe Islands, have been encountered together with 51 earlier recognized species.

The aim of the present article has been to provide an updated checklist on the lepi-

doptera fauna of the Faroe Islands, where the present status of the many new species is commented.

### A checklist of the Lepidoptera from The Faroe Islands

The systematics and the nomenclature of the following list is in accordance with the latest European checklist (Karsholt and Razowski, 1996). For each species the following information is given:

\* a species not included in the checklist by Wolff (1970).

- scientific name and authorship
- subspecific name and author if the species is represented by a distinct local race
- local status according to the following codes: R:resident N:naturalized S:synanthropic M:migrant V:vagrant ( migrant with 1-5 records) C:casual introduction U: unknown status.

– observed flight period by months

Species not recorded since 1989 are shown with *italics* in the list. Figure numbers in brackets after the species names refer to the comments following the list.

#### HEPIALIDAE

1. *Hepialus humuli* Linnaeus, f. *thulensis* Newman. R 6-8

#### TINEIDAE

2. \**Tineola bisselliella* (Hummel) (1) C 7
3. \**Tinea pallescentella* (Stainton) (2) ?RS 10
4. *Monopis laevigella* (Den.& Schiff.) RS 5-8

#### GRACILLARIDAE

5. \**Caloptilia elongella* (Linnaeus) (3) C 9
6. *Aspilapteryx tringipennella* (Zeller) R 6-8

## YPONOMEUTIDAE

*Plutellinae*

7. *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus) M 5-10  
 8. *Rhigognostis senilella* (Zett.) R 7-6  
 9. \**Rhigognostis annulatella* (Curtis)(4) R 8

## DEPRESSARIIDAE

10. \**Depressaria badiella* (Hübner) (5) R 8-9

## ELACHISTIDAE

11. *Elachista albidella* (Nyl.) R 6-8

## OECOPHORIDAE

12. *Hoffmannophila pseudospretella* (Stainton) RS 3-10  
 13. *Endrosis sarcitrella* (Linnaeus) RS 6-10

## COLEOPHORIDAE

14. \**Coleophora serratella* (Linnaeus) (6) C 7  
 15. \**Coleophora versurella* Zeller (7) ?R 7  
 16. \**Coleophora glaucicolella* Wood (8) ?R 7

## GELECHIIDAE

*Gnorimoscheminae*

17. \**Scrobipalpa samadensis* (Pfaffenzeller) (9) R 7-8

## TORTRICIDAE

*Tortricinae*

18. \**Acleris comariana* (Lienig & Zeller) (10) C 7  
 19. \**Acleris sparsana* (Den. & Schiff.) (11) ?RN 8  
 20. \**Acleris maccana* (Treitschke) (12) V 2  
 21. \**Acleris aspersana* (Hübner) (13) R 8-9  
 22. *Acleris notana* (Donovan) C 9  
 23. *Eana osseana* (Scopoli) R 7-9  
*Olethreutinae*  
 24. *Bactra lancealana* (Hübner) R 6-8  
 25. *Phiaris schulziana* (Fabricius) R 6-8  
 26. *Lobesia littoralis* (Humph. & Westw.) R 6-8  
 27. \**Epinotia caprana* (Fabricius) (14) ?R 8  
 28. *Epinotia solandriana* (Linnaeus) RN 8-9  
 29. *Epinotia mercuriana* (Frölich) R 7-8  
 30. *Zeiraphera griseana* (Hübner) RN 8-9

## PYRALIDAE

*Galleriinae*

31. *Paralipsa gularis* (Zeller) C 5

*Phycitinae*

32. \**Dioryctria abietella* (Den. & Schiff.) (15) V 7-8  
 33. \**Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner)(16) C 4-8

34. *Anagasta kuehniella* Zeller C 5-8

*Scopariinae*

35. *Scoparia ambigua* (Stainton) R 6-8

*Crambinae*

36. *Crambus pascuella* (Linnaeus) R 6-8  
 37. *Crambus ericella* (Hübner) R 6-8  
 38. *Catoptria furcatellus* (Zett.) R 7-8

*Pyraustinae*

39. \**Udea lutealis* (Hübner) (17) R 8  
 40. *Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner) M 8-9  
 41. \**Margaritia sticticalis* (Linnaeus) (18) V 8  
 42. \**Nomophila noctuella* (Den. & Schiff.) (19) M 8-10

## PTEROPHORIDAE

*Pterophorinae*

43. \**Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla* (Scopoli) (20) ?R 7

## SPHINGIDAE

*Sphinginae*

44. *Agrius convolvuli* (Linnaeus) M 8-9  
 45. *Acherontia atropos* Linnaeus V 8-10

*Macroglossinae*

46. \**Hyles galii* (Rottemburg) (21) V 7-8

## PIERIDAE

*Coliadinae*

- \**Colias croceus* (Geoffroy) (22) V 6

*Pierinae*

- \**Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus) (23) V 6-7  
 47. \**Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus) (24) C 8-3

## NYMPHALIDAE

*Nymphalinae*

48. *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus) M 5-10  
 49. *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus) M 6-9  
 50. *Inachis io* (Linnaeus) (25) M 6-10  
 51. *Aglais urticae* (Linnaeus) (26) V 6-9  
 \**Nymphalis antiopa* (Linnaeus) (27) U/?V 5

## GEOMETRIDAE

*Ennominae*

52. \**Abraxas grossulariata* (Linnaeus) (28) V 7

*Larentiinae*

53. \**Orthonama obstipata* (Fabricius) (29) V 8-9  
 54. *Xanthorhoe designata faeroensis* Wolff R 5-9  
 55. *Xanthorhoe decoloraria* (Esper) (munitata auct.) R 6-8  
 56. *Xanthorhoe fluctuata* (Linnaeus) R 5-8



57. <i>Entephria caesiata</i> (Den.& Schiff)	R	7-9	96. <i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i> (Den.& Schiff.)	R	7-8
58. * <i>Chloroclysta miata</i> (Linnaeus) (30)	V	9-10	97. <i>Standfussiana lucerneae</i> (Linnaeus)	R	8-9
59. <i>Chloroclysta citrata</i> (Linnaeus)	V	8	98. * <i>Eurois occulta</i> (Linnaeus) (49)	V	7-8
60. <i>Operophtera brumata</i> (Linnaeus)	R	10-12	99. * <i>Xestia c-nigrum</i> (Linnaeus) (50)	V	8
61. <i>Perizoma blandiata</i> (Den.& Schiff.)	R	7-8	100. <i>Xestia alpicola atlantica</i> Kaaber (51)	R	7-8
62. <i>Perizoma albulata</i> (Den.& Schiff.)	R	6-8	101. * <i>Anaplectoides prasina</i>		
63. <i>Perizoma didymata</i> (Linnaeus)	R	7-9	(Den. & Schiff.)(52)	V	8
64. <i>Eupithecia satyrata curzoni</i> (Gregon)	R	5-6	102. <i>Peridroma saucia</i> (Hübner)	M	8-10
65. <i>Eupithecia nanata zebra</i> Wolff	R	6-7	103. <i>Agrotis ipsilon</i> (Hufnagel)	M	4-11
66. * <i>Eupithecia pusillata</i>					
(Den.& Schiff.) (31)	?RN	8			

## NOCTUIDAE

*Catocalinae*

67. * <i>Catocala fraxini</i> (Linnaeus) (32)	V	9
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*Plusiinae*

68. <i>Autographa gamma</i> (Linnaeus)	M	5-11
69. * <i>Autographa pulchrina</i> (Haworth) (33)	V	7-8

*Hadeninae*

70. * <i>Caradrina morpheus</i> (Hufnagel) (34)	C	7
71. <i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i> (Scopoli)	C	8
72. * <i>Spodoptera exigua</i> (Hübner) (35)	V	8
73. <i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i> (Linnaeus)	M	5-11
74. * <i>Enargia paleacea</i> (Esper) (36)	V	8
75. * <i>Parastichtis suspecta</i> (Hübner) (37)	V	8
76. * <i>Agrochola circellaris</i>		
(Hufnagel) (38)	M/?R	8-9
77. * <i>Eupsilia transversa</i> (Hufnagel) (39)	M	9-10
78. * <i>Xylena vetusta</i> (Hübner) (40)	V	9-4
79. <i>Mniotype adusta sommeri</i> (Lefebvre)	R	6-8
80. <i>Apamea monoglypha</i> (Hufnagel)	M	7-9
81. <i>Apamea crenata</i> (Hufnagel)	R	7-9
82. <i>Apamea zeta</i> (Treitscke)	R	7-9
83. * <i>Apamea remissa</i> (Hübner) (41)	R	7-8
84. * <i>Rhizedra lutosus</i> (Hübner) (42)	V	9-10
85. * <i>Amphipoea lucens</i> (Freyer) (43)	?R	8-9
86. * <i>Hydraecia micacea</i> (Esper) (44)	R	8-9
87. <i>Celaena haworthii</i> (Curtis)	R	8-9
88. * <i>Chortedes stigmatica</i> (Eversmann) (45)	R	6-7
89. * <i>Discestra trifolii</i> (Hufnagel) (46)	V	8
90. <i>Hada plebeia</i> (Linnaeus) (H.nana auct.)	R	6-8
91. * <i>Mamestra brassicae</i> (Linnaeus) (47)	V	8
92. * <i>Mythimna unipuncta</i> (Haworth) (48)	V	9-10
93. <i>Cerapteryx graminis</i> (Linnaeus)	R	7-9

*Noctuinae*

94. <i>Diarsia mendica borealis</i> (Zett.)	R	6-9
95. <i>Noctua pronuba</i> (Linnaeus)	M	7-10

## ARCTIIDAE

*Arctiinae*

104. * <i>Arctia caia</i> (Linnaeus) (53)	V	8
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*Ctenuchinae*

105. * <i>Antichloris spec.</i> (54)	C	8
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## Comments

In this section the following abbreviations are used for the Faroe isles: Bor: Borðoy Nol: Nólsoy San: Sandoy Str: Streymoy Sud: Suðuroy Vag: Vágur Vid: Viðoy

- (1) *Tineola bisselliella*: Casual introduction. Recorded from Str:Tórshavn a female found indoor 21.VII.1971 (O.Sandvej leg., SK. coll.). Also recorded during the period 1986-92 (Bloch and Mourier, 1993).
- (2) *Tinea pallescentella*: Probably native and overlooked. Only one record: Str: a specimen caught in the plantation in Tórshavn 23.X.1943 (Brown, 1944). Recent observations from Shetland have shown that it is synanthropic and very local, but can be found flying commonly around old out-houses between June and September (Pennington, 1997a).
- (3) *Caloptilia elongella*: Casual introduction with only one record: Str: Hoyvík a male 10- 17.IX.1995 (NMÁ). The male appeared in a light trap in the nursery and has probably been introduced with foreign plant material in the larval stage.
- (4) *Rhigognostis annulatella*: Probably native. Two records. San: Sandur, one 1-8.VIII. 1992 in a light trap (NM). Vid: Dalur, a female to MV-light 7.8.1996 (SK). Searching after larvae on *Cochlearia officinalis* L. in the vicinity has until now been in vain.
- (5) *Depressaria badiella*: Native. At present only ob-



- served on Sandoy and Nólsoy. San: Sandur, seven from 9.VIII-4.IX.1990, one 8-15.VIII.1992, one 13-27.VIII.1995(NM). Søltuvík, one 29.VIII.1992 (LT/PK). Nólsoy: Bygdin, one 29-30.VIII.1994 (NM)
- (6) *Coleophora serratella*: Transient colonist with only one Faroe record. Tórshavn, a few larvae on birch shrubs in the Gundadal plantation in July 1984, from which one imago later emerged. The birches, *Betula papyrifera* var. *kenaica* were introduced from Alaska via Denmark and planted there in 1982 (Koponen, 1984). Later searches in 1990 and 1994 one the same trees have been without results (SK).
- (7) *Coleophora versurella*: Probably resident. Kunoy, a female 19.VII-2.VIII.1997 (NM), see also Kaaber *et al.*, (in press).
- (8) *Coleophora glaucicolella*. Probably native. Vid: Dalur, a female 7.VII.1997 (SK). See also Kaaber *et al.*, (in press).
- (9) *Scrobipalpa samadensis*: Resident. Records from Suðuroy, Sandoy and South Streymoy. Sud: Sumba several 9.VII.1987 (SK), Akrabergsvitin one 10-20.VII.1991(NM). Sandoy: dunes at Sandur, common 8.VII.1991 and 22.VII.1992 (SK,PG). Streymoy: Hoyvík, one 12-21.VII.1992 (NM).
- (10) *Acleris comariana*: Casual introduction. Sud: Tvøroyri, several larvae among spun leaves on imported Danish *Fragaria* plants 7.VII.1993, from which one was reared (SK).
- (11) *Acleris sparsana*. Probably naturalized resident. Kunoy, a female 24-31.VIII.1997. See also Kaaber *et al.*, (in press).
- (12) *Acleris maccana*: Probably vagrant. One record only. Str: Hoyvík, a male in a light trap 3-10.II.1991 (NM).
- (13) *Acleris aspersana*: Native with only two local populations known. Vid: Dalur common 31.VII.1992 (PG,SK), common 19.VIII, larvae in spun leaves of *Potentilla erecta* 7.VIII.1996 (SK). Sud: Øravík common 2.IX.1992 (Trolle, L. and Ketil, P. leg. SK coll.).
- (14) *Epinotia caprana*: Probably resident. San: Sandur a male in a light trap 18-27.VIII.1990 (NM). Sud: Trongisvágur, a female in a light trap 16-23.1996 (NM).
- (15) *Dioryctria abietella*. Vagrant. Two light trap records from San: Sandur one male 27.VII-3.VIII.1991 (NM). Nólsoy one female 31.VIII-1.VIII.1994 (NM).
- (16) *Plodia interpunctella*: Casual introduction. Recorded three times during 1986-92 from imported foods in Tórshavn (Bloch and Mourier, 1994).
- (17) *Udea lutealis*. Probably resident. Only recorded from Fugloy, Kirkja three males in a light trap 8-18.VIII.1997 (NM). See Kaaber *et al.*, (in press).
- (18) *Margaritia sticticalis*. Vagrant. First observed in 1996. Sud: Trongisvágur one in a light trap 17.VII-10.VIII (NM), Kunoy one in a light trap 10-28.VIII (NM). In 1997 again on Kunoy, one in a light trap 18-24.VIII (NM).
- (19) *Nomophila noctuella*. Migrant. First observed in 1995. Nólsoy, two in a light trap 11-18.IX (NM). In 1996 numerous specimens invaded the Faroe isles in August and early September, as the species was prevalent on Suðuroy, Sandoy, Nólsoy, Streymoy and also found on Eysturoy and Vágar. A light trap at Sud: Trongisvágur caught 412 specimens in that period. See Kaaber (1997).
- (20) *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla*. Status uncertain, probably resident. Vag: Miðvágur one male in a light trap 26-31.VII.1997 (NM). See Kaaber *et al.*, (in press).
- (21) *Hyles galii*. Vagrant. First recorded from Nólsoy, one caught during daytime in July 1973 and given to Mr. Niels á Botni (coll.ZMUC). In 1996 another specimen was seen on Viðoy at Dalur on August 5, but it escaped capture (Kaaber, 1997).
- (22) *Colias crocea*. Vagrant. Bor: Klaksvík, a specimen observed in early June 1992 during a period with strong migrational activity (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994).
- (23) *Pieris brassicae*. Vagrant. Two specimens observed on Sud: Tvøroyri and Str: Tórshavn during June 1992 in a period with strong migrational activity (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994).
- (24) *Pieris rapae*. Casual introduction. Str: Tórshavn, a female found indoors in August 1992 (Kaaber *et al.*, 1992). Two further specimens which were probably introduced in the larval stage were found indoors on Eysturoy, Kambisdal 17.I.1996 (coll. J.K.Jensen, Nólsoy) and on Vag: Sandavágur 16.XII.1996 (FN).
- (25) *Inachis io*. Migrant. A distinct migration was observed in June 1992, and later on a larva was found in Str: Haldarsvík (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994). Another migration obviously occurred in late summer 1994, as three hibernating specimens in the autumn were found indoors in Tórshavn and sent to FN. See also (26) *Aglais urticae*.
- (26) *Aglais urticae*. Casual migrant. A migrating specimen was observed in June 1992 (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994): Two further specimens were found in late



- summer 1994: Tórshavn, one 29.VIII (Eyðfinn Joensen leg.) and another 3.IX.1994 (Bogi Kross-teig leg.). Both specimens in FN.
- (27) *Nymphalis antiopa*. Status uncertain. Single observations have been recorded from Nólsoy, one on June 3, 1988, another at the end of May, 1992 (Jens-Kjeld Jensen). Bor: Klaksvík, one June 6-8, 1992 (Unn í Bø), see Kaaber *et al.* (1994).
- (28) *Abraxas grossulariata*. Vagrant. One record. Sud: Sumba, a male 18.VII.1994 (Lillian Djurhuus leg. coll. FN).
- (29) *Orthonama obstipata*. Vagrant. Two light trap records, both from 1996. Kunoy, one male 10-28.VII. and Suðuroy, Trongisvágur, one male 23-30.VIII. (NM).
- (30) *Chloroclysta miata*. Probably vagrant from Scandinavia. Four light trap records. Nólsoy a male 27.IX-2.X.1993. San: Sandur a male 18.IX-9.X.1993, a male 10.-30.IX.1994. Kunoy, a female 7-14.IX.1997 (NM).
- (31) *Eupithecia pusillata*. Probably naturalised resident, following the importation of foreign *Juniperus* plants. Two light trap record from Str: Hoyvík. A female 19. - 26.VIII.1992, a male 30.VIII-10.IX.1995 (NM).
- (32) *Catocala fraxini*. Vagrant. Str: Tórshavn one 9.IX.1994, found during daytime resting on a wall, see Jensen (1994). The specimen is kept at FN.
- (33) *Autographa pulchrina*. Vagrant. Three light trap records. San: Sandur one 3-10.VIII, one 10-17.VIII.1991. Nólsoy, one 31.7-1.VIII.1994 (NM).
- (34) *Caradrina morpheus*. Probably casual introduction. Str: Tórshavn one 28.VI.1993, flying in the harbour area (SK).
- (35) *Spodoptera exigua*. Vagrant. One light trap record from 1996. Kunoy a male 10-20.VIII (NM).
- (36) *Enargia paleacea*. Vagrant. One light trap record in 1996. Sud: Trongisvágur a male 23-30.VIII (NM).
- (37) *Parastichtis suspecta*. Vagrant. One light trap record. Nólsoy a male 7.-14.VIII.1994 (NM).
- (38) *Agrochola circellaris*. Migrant, but possibly temporary resident. In 1992, but not the next years were 5 specimens found in Tórshavn and its surroundings (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994). Otherwise found singly, but regularly in a light trap on Sud: Trongisvágur, one 11.-25.VIII.1994, one 28.VIII-18.IX.1995, two 19.-24.IX.1996 (NM).
- (39) *Eupsilia transversa*. Irregular migrant. Five light trap records. Sud: Akraberg two 28.X-7.XI.1990, Str: Hoyvík one 3.-11.XI, one 25.XI-1.XII.1990. San: Sandur one 26.X-2.XI.1991 (NM).
- (40) *Xylota vetusta*. Irregular migrant, probably temporary resident. Three light trap records from Str: Hoyvík, one 7-14.IV, one 13.-27.X.1991. Sud: Akraberg one 2.-15.X.1991 (NM).
- (41) *Apamea remissa*. Probably resident. The species has occurred singly, but almost annually in the light traps. San: Sandur, two in 1991. Str: Hoyvík one in 1992, one in 1993. Nólsoy one in 1993. Vág: Miðvágur 2 in 1997. Kunoy one in 1997 (NM).
- (42) *Rhizodra lutos*. Rather regular vagrant. San: Sandur one 12.-19.IX, one 3.-10.X. 1992. Nólsoy one 7.-26.X.1996 (NM).
- (43) *Amphipoea lucens*. Probably resident. Vág: Miðvágur, two males and a female 1-7.IX. 1997, see Kaaber, Karsholt & Strandbæk (*in press*).
- (44) *Hydraecia micacea*. Resident. The species has occurred almost annually, but most singly in the light traps. Str: Hoyvík two in 1990, one i 1994. San: Sandur one in 1991, one in 1994, one in 1995. Nólsoy, one in 1994. Vid: Dalur one in 1996. Kunoy, one in 1996, 5 in 1997. Vág: Miðvágur two in 1997 (NM).
- (45) *Chortedes stigmatica*. Resident. Only known from Sandoy, where it is common in the protected dune area at Sandur. First recorded in 1978 (Bengtson, 1982). A search in other sandy areas with large stands of *Leymus arenarius*, such as Vág: Sørsvágur have yet proved fruitless (SK).
- (46) *Discestra trifolii*. Irregular migrant. Following an outbreak in Central Europe in early August 1996 the species invaded Shetland where more than 300 specimens were recorded (Pennington, 1997a,b,c). During that period three specimens were recorded in light traps on the Faroes, with two on Kunoy on 8.VIII. and 10-28.VIII, and one on Stóra Dímun 8-20.VIII (NM). A fourth specimen was spotted on Sandoy 13.VIII, but escaped capture (Kaaber, 1997).
- (47) *Mamestra brassicae*. Probably vagrant. A light trap record from Sud: Trongisvágur one male 29.VII-10.VIII.1994 (NM).
- (48) *Mythimna unipuncta*. Occasional migrant. Three light trap records. Sud: Akraberg one 28.VIII-7.IX, one 8.-15.IX. San: Sandur one 12.-19.IX.1992 (NM), see Kaaber *et al.* (1994).
- (49) *Eurois occulta*. Regular migrant from Scandinavia. Five light trap records during the period. San: Sandur one female 24.VII-7.VIII.1993. Str:



- Hoyvík, a male and a female 2-9.VIII.1993. Kunoy, a female 10-28.VIII.1996. Vág: Miðvágur, a male 6-31.VII.1997 (NM).
- (50) *Xestia c-nigrum*. Vagrant. One light trap record. Kunoy, one 6-17.VIII.1997 (NM).
- (51) *Xestia alpicola*. The mountainous Faroe population has been described as *ssp.atlantica* (Kaaber, 1996).
- (52) *Anaplectoides prasina*. Vagrant. An offshore record was made in 1996 where a male specimen was found on August 10 on a ship five kilometers north of Viðoy (Paco Bustamante leg., FN ). See Kaaber (1997).
- (53) *Arctia caia*. Vagrant. One light trap record. Sud:Trongisvágur a male 24.VII- 6.VIII.1995 (NM).
- (54) *Antichloris spec.* Casual introduction. A dead pupa was found in its web among imported bananas in a supermarket in Tórshavn in 1993 by Mr.Jens-Kjeld Jensen, Nólsoy and shown to SK in 1994. A final determination has not yet been made.

## Discussion

The present checklist enumerates 108 species, an increase of 51 species compared with the former checklist from 1970. The three butterfly species in the list without figures represent records based solely on observations. Due to the lack of voucher material the reliability of these records can be questioned. With regard to the observations of *Colias crocea* and *Pieris brassicae*, misidentification has been considered negligible (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994). In the case of the third species, *Nymphalis antiopa*, this risk is much more significant. Thus the two related butterflies *Vanessa io* and *Inachis io* can easily be confused with *antiopa* due to their swift and powerful flight and dark appearance, especially when viewed at some distance. Furthermore it is suggestive, that *antiopa* neither in Shetland nor on Iceland, contrary to the Faroe sightings, has been recorded in May or June, but only in Au-

gust-September. In Shetland the species has been recorded on six occasions, in every case with a close relationship with a concurrent migration into Southern England (Gear, 1995). The three records from Iceland have all been connected with timber importation from Europe during late summer (Olafsson and Björnsson, 1997). The Faroe sightings may, however, be interpreted as casual vagrants from Western Norway. At the present stage of knowledge *Nymphalis antiopa* is placed on the checklist with reservation, and it is to be hoped that its presence there can be safely confirmed in future.

Nine lepidoptera species which earlier have been recorded from the Faroe Islands have not turned up since 1970, despite the efforts which have been made during the study to rediscover them. Two of these species, *Tinea pallescentella* and *Elachista albidella* are probably overlooked due to secretive habits and inconspicuous appearance. Another three, *Coleophora serratella*, *Acleris notana* and *Chloroclysta citrata*, have seemingly no resident populations on the Faroes at this time. The well-known and conspicuous migrant moth *Acherontia atropos* has always been a great rarity on the Faroes, where it was last observed about 1953 (Wolff, 1970). The three last species in this group, *Paralipsa gularis*, *Anagasta kuehniella* and *Caradrina clavipalpis*, have all been introduced with victuals and may therefore turn up on the Faroes in future.

Among the 56 species, listed under the category R, 48 have stable Faroe populations. Further eight species, namely *Tinea pallescentella*, *Coleophora versurella* and



*glaucicolella*, *Acleris sparsana*, *Epinotia caprana*, *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla*, *Eupithecia pusillata*, and *Amphipoea lucens*, apparently also belong to this category. Most of these species have been discovered during the last years. At present their occurrence on the Faroe Islands are based on only few specimens and a very short period of observation. For this reason their position on the list are annotated with a question mark and further observations are needed to clarify their stability as resident species.

Forty species in the list which do not have stable populations are placed under the migratory categories M and V. Their presence in the Faroe Isles is mainly dependent on meteorological factors and long range transportation with aircurrents. This was evident during two invasions in 1992 and 1996 (Kaaber *et al.*, 1994, Kaaber, 1997). 25 of the recent additions to the checklist belong to these two categories. The majority of these species are also recorded as migrants or vagrants, both on Iceland (Olafsson, 1991, Olafsson and Björnsson, 1997) and Shetland (Pennington, 1997c).

The remaining twelve species in the checklist are categorized as casual introduction (C). In the former checklist a similar category was only used for the two migratory butterflies *Inachis io* and *Aglais urticae* (Wolff, 1970). In the present list this category has been used for those species which have been transported to the Faroe Isles either with goods and victuals or on imported living plants. Thus the category mainly includes synanthropic species

such as *Tineola bisselliella*, *Paralipsa gularis*, *Anagasta kuehniella*, *Plodia interpunctella*, and accidentally introduced species such as *Pieris rapae*, *Caradrina morpheus*, *C.clavipalpis* and *Antichloris spec.*, but also species such as *Caloptilia elongella*, *Coleophora serratella*, *Acleris comariana* and *A.notana* with a potential for colonization of the Faroe isles. The majority of the recorded species are apparently unable to establish themselves in the Atlantic climate. In the course of time some have become naturalised and have afterwards spread into other suitable areas, such as the Winter moth *Operophtera brumata* (Koponen, 1985). At present foreign plant importation in the Faroe Isles mainly takes place at the nursery in Hoyvík on Streymoy, where one of the light traps was used during the years from 1990 to 1996. It would therefore be of great interest to continue the monitoring of this area with a light trap in the years to come.

The many recent additions to the checklist are illustrative, as they demonstrate an impressive spreading capacity of many European lepidoptera species and a continuous and dynamic pressure on the native fauna of the Faroe Islands.

### Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank his friends, Mr. Peter Gjelstrup, the Museum of Natural History in Aarhus, specialist in soil invertebrates, for good companionship during the field work 1990-96, and Dr. Dorete Bloch, director of the Føroya Náttúrugripasavn, Tórshavn, for excellent working facilities during the years. A cordial acknowledgement is also extended to those persons who have cooperated on the five light traps which have been in function during the period 1990-1997: the crew on the Akraberg lighthouse and Mr. Eiler Djurhuus in Trongis-

vágur, Suðuroy, Mr. Óla Jákup úr Dímun, Stóra Dímun, Mr. Oskar Oskarsson and Mr. Johannes Sørensen, Sandur on Sandoy, Mr. Hans Jørgensen, Miðvágur on Vágar, Mr. Jens-Kjeld Jensen on Nólsoy, Mr. Havgrímur Gaasedal and Mr. Tróndur Leivsson, Tórshavn, Mr. Atli Vilhelm on Kunoy, and Mr. Hans Jákup Absalonsen, Viðareiði, and Mrs. Jenny Lydersen and Mr. Selmar Jakobsen on Viðoy and Fugloy. The main study was made possible by financial support and grants from Schiøtz-Christensens Mindelegat, The Museum of Natural History in Aarhus, The University of Aarhus and The Carlsberg Foundation. Support has also been given by Føroya Banki in Tórshavn.

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