

A NEW AFRICAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *FULGORAECIA*
NEWMAN (LEPIDOPTERA, EPIPYROPIDAE)

BY W. H. T. TAMS.

IN 1913 H. W. Bell-Marley wrote an interesting account of the first species of EPIPYROPIDAE to be found in Africa, and the paper contains a description of the species by W. L. Distant, and a bibliography (1913, *Zoologist* (4) 17 : 281).

Mr. T. W. Kirkpatrick has just returned from Tanganyika Territory, with another African species, described below, and an account of its life-history, which will be published in these *Proceedings*, *Series A*.

Fulgoraecia cerolestes sp. n.

♂. Plate I, figs. 1, 1A, 4; genitalia, fig. 7.

Expanse 23–24 mm. Fore-wing fuscous, with fuscous black reticulate markings; a cartridge buff spot close above the first anal vein directly below the junction of vein Cu 2 with the cell. Hind-wing fuscous black. Underside of fore- and hind-wings fuscous.

♀. Genitalia, plate I, fig. 9.

Expanse 21–23 mm. Fore-wing drab, with fuscous reticulate markings. Hind-wing fuscous. Underside of fore- and hind-wings fuscous.

Holotype ♂ and 3 ♂ paratypes, allotype ♀ and 6 ♀ paratypes
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY: Amani, bred March to May, 1945 (T. W. Kirkpatrick).

Hosts. *Metaphaena cruentata* Gerstaecker, on trunk of *Grevillea* (March–April, 1945). (Pl. 1, figs. 3, 3A, and figs. 5, 6, with larva of *Fulgoraecia cerolestes* Tams). *Metaphaena militaris* Gerstaecker on trunk of *Entandrophragma* sp. (May, 1945). (Pl. 1, fig. 2.)

A view of the female genitalia of *Fulgoraecia fulvipunctata* Distant, from Natal, is shown (Pl. 1, fig. 8) for comparison with fig. 9, *F. cerolestes* ♀.

The appearance of the generic name *Fulgoraecia* Newman after a century during which it has been completely overlooked, not to say avoided, may occasion some surprise. I give below a short history of the case.

At a meeting of the Entomological Society of London held on 7th August, 1848, Mr. J. C. Bowring exhibited “. . . a very remarkable Coccus-like insect, parasitic upon *Fulgora laternaria*.”

At a meeting of the same society held on 1st September, 1851, the following extract of a letter from Mr. Bowring, dated Hong Kong, 2nd June, was read:—

“Captain Champion tells me you entomologists at home will not believe my account of the parasite on *Fulgora*. Now yesterday I showed Mr. Harrington a specimen which I have just reared, the moth having

come out a day or two ago—a fine male, with beautifully pectinated antennae. The pupa-case with its cottony covering is well preserved. This specimen I intend to send to the Entomological Society.”

This statement was repeated in the October number of the *Zoologist* for 1851, and the editor, Edward Newman, writing the preface for that year, dated 29th November, stated:—

“Many months have elapsed since a statement was made at one of the meetings of the Entomological Society, of a discovery made by Mr. J. C. Bowring at Hong Kong. This gentleman, who appears to have directed the energies of a very observant mind to the study of Entomology, detected on a specimen of the common Chinese *Fulgora*, a parasite which he believed to be Lepidopterous: it seemed to possess the wing-nervures and legs of a *Bombyx*, and the antennae of the male are described as beautifully pectinated (*Zool.* 3269). The existence of a Lepidopterous parasite is extremely curious, and although we should exercise a degree of caution in giving full credit to the statement of a fact so perfectly anomalous, yet there seems no reasonable ground in this instance for supposing that a mistake could have occurred through incomplete or inaccurate observation; and I venture to express a hope that hereafter, when the characters of this insect shall have been more rigorously examined and defined, let its affinities be what they may, entomologists will kindly accede to the wish I have more than once expressed, of calling it *Fulgora* *Bowringii*, thus making the name a lasting record both of its extraordinary economy and its talented discoverer.”

At a meeting of the Entomological Society held on 1st March, 1852:

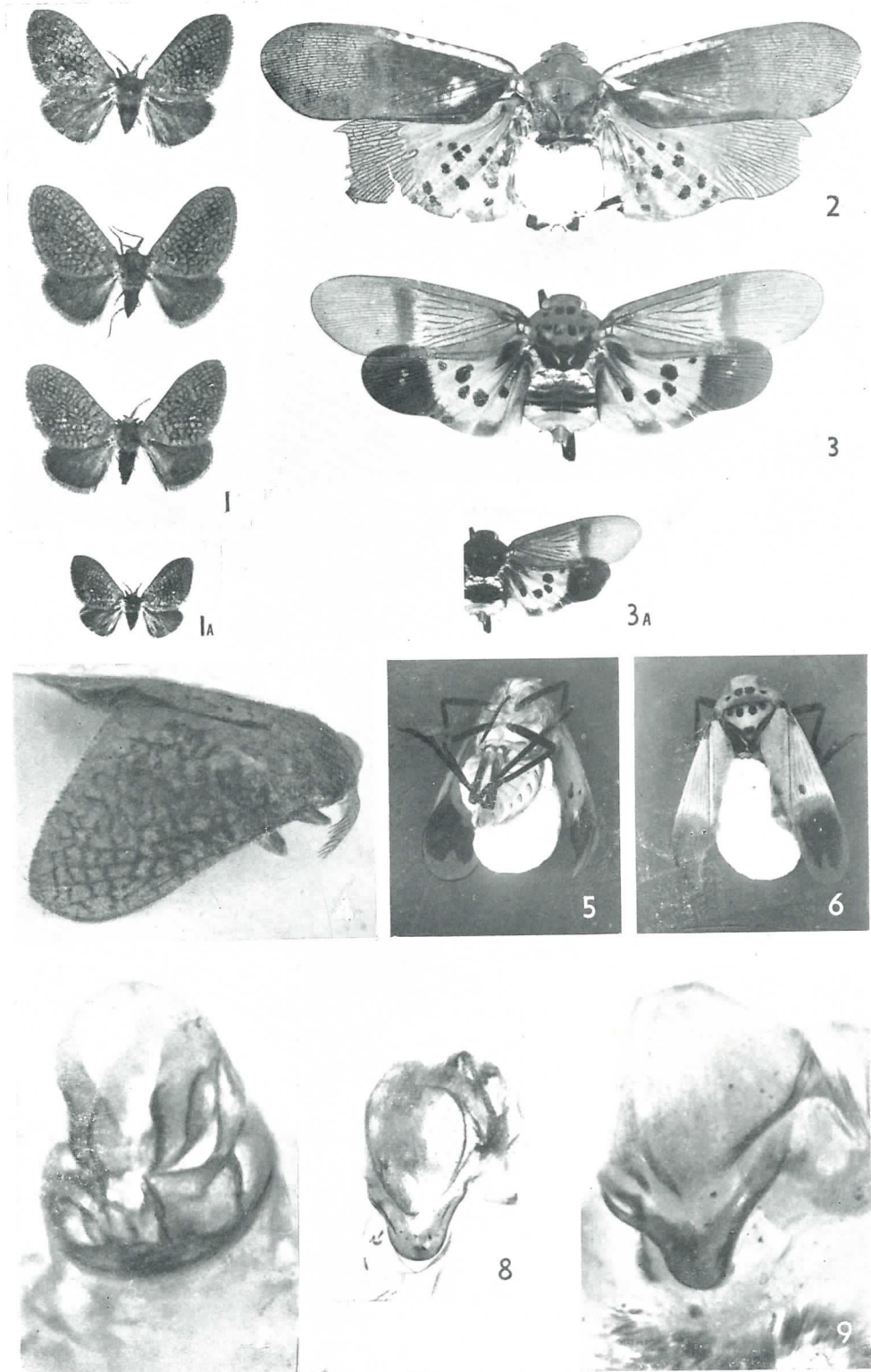
“The President directed attention to the insects presented by Mr. J. C. Bowring, especially to the extraordinary parasite upon *Fulgora candelaria*, which was undoubtedly Lepidopterous, resembling a *Bombyx* or *Orgyia*, and for which Mr. Bowring proposed the name of *Epipyrops anomala*.”

A quarter of a century later—1876—J. O. Westwood published a paper, editing J. C. Bowring's notes, and describing a new genus, new species *Epipyrops anomala*. He prefaced the actual description with the following observations:—

“The accompanying figures are drawn from Mr. Bowring's specimens, above described, in the British Museum, and others subsequently forwarded by that gentleman, now in the Hopeian Collection at Oxford, by whom also the manuscript name, subsequently adopted in this paper, was proposed, no description of the insect having hitherto appeared, so far as I am aware.”

The bibliography given by Distant (1913, *Zoologist* (4) 17: 290–291) contains no reference to Newman's name, which was also omitted by Scudder and subsequently by Neave.

That the name *Fulgora bowringii* Newman is the first valid name for the species afterwards described by Westwood as *Epipyrops anomala* cannot be refuted. The family name will, however, remain EPIPYROPIDAE, as the name *Epipyrops* is still included in the synonymy of the group.



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Species of Fulgoraecia and Metaphaena

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

- FIG. 1.—*Fulgoraacia cerolestes* sp. n., 3 ♂ (enlarged).
FIG. 1A.—♂, to show actual size.
FIG. 2.—*Metaphaena militaris* Gerst. (enlarged).
FIG. 3.—*Metaphaena cruentata* Gerst. (enlarged).
FIG. 3A.—*Metaphaena cruentata* Gerst., to show actual size.
FIG. 4.—*Fulgoraacia cerolestes* sp. n., ♂ showing wings in resting position.
FIG. 5.—Ventral view of *Metaphaena cruentata* Gerst. with larva of *F. cerolestes* attached dorsally.
FIG. 6.—Dorsal view of example shown in fig. 5.
FIG. 7.—*Fulgoraacia cerolestes* sp. n., ♂ genitalia.
FIG. 8.—*Fulgoraacia fulvipunctata* Dist., ♀ genitalia, for comparison with those of the new species.
FIG. 9.—*Fulgoraacia cerolestes* sp. n., ♀ genitalia.