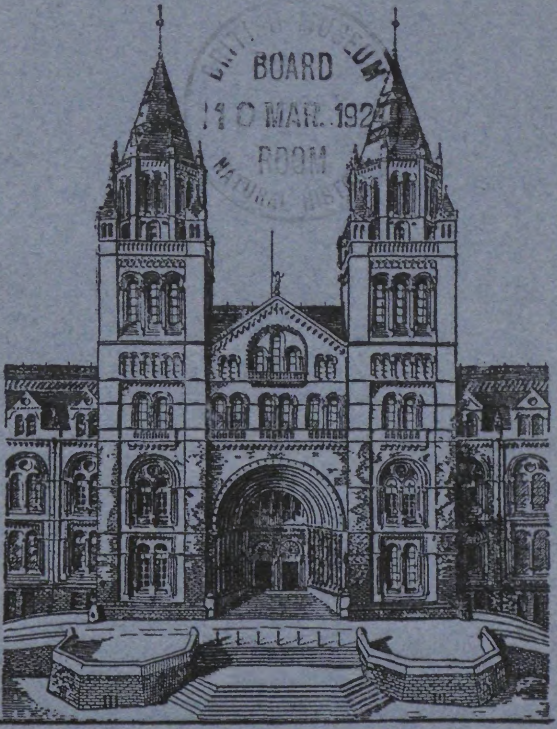
British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC MOTHS

SERIES No. 3

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 12 One Shilling

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Agarista agricola* (b & c) *Euschirropterus poeyi* (d) *Hecatesia fenestrata* (e) *Anaxita sannionis*

Natural size

British Museum (Natural History)

E 76

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Altha ansorgei* (b) *Taeda prasina* (c) *Parasa charopa* (d) *Parasa euchlora*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

E 78

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Stamnodes elwesi* (b) *Arichanna flavinigra* (c) *Daseochaeta pallida* (d) *Hermonassa lineata*

Natural size

British Museum (Natural History)

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Vizaga mirabilis* (b) *Erythroecia rhodophora* (c) *Pliniola nigristriata*
(d) *Camptoloma interiorata*

Natural size

British Museum (Natural History)

E 79

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Erateina staudingeri* (b) *Lobocraspeda coeruleostriga*
(c) *Heltcopage hirundinalis*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

E 80

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EXOTIC MOTHS.

SERIES No. 3.

Most of the moths in this series are found in the tropics. Various families are represented. One card shows a moth, the two sexes of which are remarkably different, and a small Australian moth known as the "Whistling-moth." Another card shows four beautiful moths taken during the Mount Everest Expeditions, 1921-1922. Four beautiful members of the family Limacodidae are shown; only two tiny, sombre-coloured representatives of this family occur in the British Islands. Some of the moths shown exhibit curious modifications in wing-form, and one resembles a small swallow-tailed butterfly.

E 76 (a). *Agarista agricola.*

This moth is known in Australia as the Painted Day Moth. Its size, brilliant coloration, and day-flying habits brought it early to the notice of one of the older naturalists, Donovan, who figured it in his "Insects of New Holland" published in 1805. The caterpillar is as beautiful as the moth: it is white with a narrow black band on each segment, except on the one following the thoracic segments, which has a white-streaked orange band; its head, legs, prolegs and a large dorsal patch on the last segment but one, are orange, and each segment bears about eight long black bristles, each flattened and expanding towards its extremity. The food-plant is *Vitis heterophylla.* The insect has a wide range in Australia from Sydney northward, and is represented by a race in New Guinea and another in Dutch Timor.

E 76 (b, c). *Euschirropterus poeyi.*

This moth is remarkable for the difference between the sexes. It belongs to the family Agaristidae, most members of which fly by day. It is found in the West Indies and Central America, and appears to be common, though nothing seems to be known of its earlier stages.

E 76 (d). *Hecatesia fenestrata.*

This is one of the curious "whistling moths" of Australia. These moths fly at dusk, and the males make a curious continued sharp note resembling that of a Cicada. It is supposed that the noise is made by the moth rubbing his tarsal spines on a transparent ribbed patch in each fore-wing. *H. fenestrata* occurs from South Australia to New South Wales, and the other two known species are described from the West Coast. The genus belongs to the family Agaristidae. Nothing is known of the early stages.

E 76 (e). *Anaxita sannionis.*

This brilliantly coloured moth belongs to the family Pericopidae, which is peculiar to the New World. The distribution of the genus *Anaxita* ranges from Mexico to Peru, from which latter country comes the species here shown. The early stages are unknown.

E 77 (a). *Stamnodes elwesi.*

This beautiful moth belongs to the family Geometridae, the caterpillars of which are commonly known as "loopers." The specimen shown was taken during the Mount Everest Expedition, 1922, in the Kama Valley, Tibet, at an altitude of 11,500 feet.

E 77 (b). *Arichanna flavinigra.*

This strikingly coloured moth from the Himalaya Mountains belongs to the family Geometridae. The specimen figured was taken during the Mount Everest Expedition, 1921, in the Kama Valley, Tibet, at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

E 77 (c). *Daseochaeta pallida.*

This pretty moth, which comes from the Himalayas, resembles and is related to one of our British Noctuidae, the scarce Merveille du Jour, which is found in such places as the New Forest. The specimen figure was taken during the Mount Everest Expedition, 1921, in the Kama Valley, Tibet, at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

E 77 (d). *Hemonassa lineata.*

This is one of the less brilliantly coloured moths, of which many occur in the Himalayas. The specimen shown was taken at an altitude of 12,800 feet, in the Rongshar Valley, Tibet, during the Mount Everest Expedition, 1921.

E 78 (a). *Altha ansorgei.*

This brilliantly coloured moth belongs to the family Limacodidae, the members of which generally have a glossy sheen on the wings. The caterpillars are very curious objects, slug-like in shape, and often bear branched spines, and some species carry stinging hairs which render the handling of these creatures an unpleasant process. The species here shown comes from northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and its early stages are unknown.

E 78 (b). *Taeda prasina.*

This beautiful East African moth belongs to the family Limacodidae. Few of these African species are known in their early stages, in spite of the very remarkable slug-like caterpillars, which are often beautifully coloured.

E 78 (c). *Parasa charopa.*

This pretty little West African moth shows a remarkable combination of colours. A number of species in this family Limacodidae are bright green in colour, and several are brown and green, but this species shows quite an unusual association of colours. The caterpillar is unknown.

E 78 (d). *Parasa euchlora.*

This West African moth, of great beauty, belongs to the family Limacodidae. The caterpillar is described as being greenish sky-blue, with tufts of hair of the same colour. It has regularly placed black spots on each segment, and isolated small black hairs in the blue hair-tufts. These hairs, on coming into contact with the human skin, cause intense irritation. The underside is of a dirty flesh colour. The caterpillar lives on *Vitex*, resting by day at the foot of the plant, and feeding at night. It changes into a chrysalis in a parchment-like, barrel-shaped cocoon, the transformation taking a long time, and it seems to suffer greatly from parasites.

E 79 (a). *Vizaga mirabilis.*

This beautiful moth belongs to the sub-family Erastriinæ of the family Noctuidae. This species comes from British Central New Guinea, and the only other known species of *Vizaga* is found in Sumbawa. The early stages are unknown.

E 79 (b). *Erythroecia rhodophora.*

This moth is rarely seen in collections. It comes from Mexico and Central America, and it appears to be related to the *Hydroecias*, with their stem-boring larvæ.

E 79 (c). *Pliniola nigristriata.*

This curious moth has an arresting colour-pattern and shape, but is without bright colours. The shape of the fore-wings is due to an unusual development of the wing-nervures. It belongs to the family Hypsidae, and its early stages are not yet known.

E 79 (d). *Camptoloma interiorata*

Shown here is a Japanese specimen of a moth belonging to the family Hypsidae. The first specimen of this species came from China, and another species like it comes from northern India. The life-history is not yet known.

E 80 (a). *Erateina staudingeri.*

This is one of the most beautiful species of the South American Geometridae. These moths are rare, and their early stages are not yet known.

E 80 (b). *Lobocraspeda coeruleostriga.*

This is a New Guinea moth belonging to the family Geometridae. The specimen figured is a male, and shows the curious modification of the hind-wings, a feature which does not occur in those of the female. The life-history of this, as of many of the New Guinea moths, is unknown.

E 80 (c). *Helicopage hirundinalis.*

This shows an example of the sub-family Hemitheinae (family Geometridae). In this sub-family nearly all the species are green, and they are also not common. The species shown comes from the Khasia Hills, Assam. Nothing is known of its early stages.

Set E 12. *February, 1924.*