

British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC MOTHS

SERIES No. 13

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 48

One Shilling



a



b



c

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Cossus cheesmani* (b) *Cossus aegyptiaca*

(c) *Duomitus armstrongi*

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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a



b



c

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Hypotrabala dollmani* (b) *Hypotrabala horridula horridula*
(c) *Hypotrabala horridula seydeli*

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EXOTIC MOTHS

- (a) *Semioptila torta maschuna* (b) *Semioptila marshalli*
(c) *Himantopterus zaida flavescens* (d) *Pedoptila nemopteridia*

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a



b



c

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Plagerepne torquata* (b) *Beebea gulielmi*

(c) *Vatica rutilalis*

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a



b



c

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Dalcera semirufa* (b) *Dalcera variegata*

(c) *Dalcera canescens*

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EXOTIC MOTHS.

Series No. 13.

With one or two exceptions, the figures in this series have been taken from the actual types, in some cases of recently discovered species, in others of species described many years ago, but so rare that no further specimens of them have been obtained. The families represented are Cossidæ, Zygaenidæ, Lasiocampidæ, Pyralidæ and Dalceridæ.

E 256 (a). *Cossus cheesmani*.

This species belongs to the family Cossidæ, of which the Common Goat Moth (*Cossus cossus*) is the best known example, and the specimen here shown is one of two taken in Arabia, 200 miles south-south-west of El Hufuf, in 1924. Unfortunately very little collecting has yet been done in Arabia; but that interesting insects await discovery in that country is indicated by the fact that in a small Arabian collection of only sixteen specimens there were representatives of three new species in addition to the present one.

E 256 (b). *Cossus aegyptiaca*.

An Egyptian Cossid, shown on account of its rarity and also because, when the original description was made, the type was in a dirty, greasy condition; since then, as the result of cleaning, its appearance has been so much altered that the original description is now valueless. In the figure, the superficial differences between this and the preceding species are well shown.

E 256 (c). *Duomitus armstrongi*.

The female here shown, which is the type of the species, is the only representative of this very beautiful member of the family Cossidæ in the British Museum collection. In view of the fact that the larva, a stem-borer, is injurious to coffee in the Gold Coast, this is somewhat remarkable.

E 257 (a). *Semioptila torta maschuna*.

The present species, and the other quaint little moths shown on the same card, belong to the sub-family Himantopterinae, of the family Zygaenidæ. In the case of about half the known species included in the sub-family in question the hind wings are of the ordinary shape, while in the other half they are modified somewhat as in this instance. *Semioptila torta* is a West African moth, and the specimen here shown is the type of the East African sub-species. The larvæ of the Indo-Australian representatives of *Semioptila* are said to live in the nests of Termites.

E 257 (b). *Semioptila marshalli*.

A Mashonaland species with the hind wings much attenuated. The specimen illustrated is the type.

E 257 (c). *Himantopterus zaida flavescens*.

This is one of the Oriental forms, and has been found in Tenasserim, whilst *H. zaida zaida*, the typical sub-species, occurs in North India. The formation of the hind wings is remarkably different from that in the other species illustrated on the card.

E 257 (d). *Pedoptila nemopteridia*.

A West African species, with yet another type of hind wing development, viz., spatulate. This species bears a great resemblance to certain Neuropterous insects known as *Nemoptera*, hence its name.

E 258 (a). *Hypotrabala dollmani*.

The African genus *Hypotrabala* belongs to the Lasiocampidæ, the family that includes the Lackey, Lappet and Drinker moths of this country. This species, which is a native of north-western Rhodesia, lacks one of the features noticeable in several species of the genus, viz., the glossy white spot at the end of the cell of the fore wings, and in addition has a peculiar pattern of straight bars across the wing. The specimen shown is the type.

E 258 (b). *Hypotrabala horridula horridula*.

Another species of the same genus as the preceding, but having a more usual pattern. This sub-species, of which the type is shown, also occurs in north-western Rhodesia.

E 258 (c). *Hypotrabala horridula seydeli*.

The Congo sub-species of *H. horridula*. The specimen shown is in the Musée du Congo Belge at Tervueren, near Brussels.

E 259 (a). *Plagerepne torquata*.

This very remarkable member of the Pyralid sub-family Chrysauginæ inhabits Java. Two very unusual features exhibited by the male are a long pencil of hair-scales on the underside of the inner margin of the fore wing, and a very long pencil of similar scales on the palpi. The specimen shown is the male type.

E 259 (b). *Beebea gulielmi*.

An unusually large member of the sub-family Pyraustinæ (family Pyralidæ) occurring in the Galapagos Islands, and unlike any species known to exist elsewhere. The specimen illustrated is the only one so far brought to this country, and it may be long before others are collected, since these islands are not often visited, even by collectors.

E 259 (c). *Vatica rutilalis*.

A very rare Pyralid of the sub-family Pyraustinae, found in West Africa. The only examples in the British Museum collection are old imperfect specimens, like the type here illustrated.

E 260 (a). *Dalcera semirufa*.

The family Dalceridae is confined to tropical America, and, though some of the species are fairly common, the one shown in this illustration appears to be rare. It is among the most beautiful members of the family, and occurs in Colombia, South America.

E 260 (b). *Dalcera variegata*.

Another fine and rare species of the family Dalceridae. The specimen shown is the type, and was taken in Brazil.

E 260 (c). *Dalcera canescens*.

A recently described and strikingly coloured Dalcerid, known only from this single specimen, which was found in Peru.

Set E 48.

December, 1926.