

# *Wockia asperipunctella* (Bruand, 1851) (Lepidoptera, Urodidae), a species and a family new to Norway

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The first Norwegian specimen of *Wockia asperipunctella* (Bruand, 1851) (Lepidoptera, Urodidae) is reported. It was collected in 2008 in Halden in Southeast-Norway. Notes on the species' distribution and biology are given.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Urodidae, *Wockia asperipunctella*, Norway.

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## Introduction

The moth family Urodidae has only one representative in Europe, *Wockia asperipunctella* (Bruand, 1851) (Karsholt & Razowski 1996). *Wockia* Heinemann, 1870 has previously been associated with the family Yponomeutidae until Kyrki (1988) defined Urodidae for the three genera *Wockia*, *Urodus* Herrich-Schäffer, [1854] and *Spiladarcha* Meyrick, 1913. Most of the species in Urodidae occur in the Neotropical region (Kyrki 1988). *Wockia koreana* Sohn, 2008 from Korea is the second Palaearctic species of the family (Sohn & Adamski 2008).

*Wockia asperipunctella* has been recorded from central and northern parts of Europe, but it is absent from the westernmost parts, i.e., the Iberian peninsula, the British Isles, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark; in southern Europe the species is recorded from Italy and the former Yugoslavia (Karsholt & Razowski 1996, Kyrki 1988). In addition it is present in eastern North America (Sohn & Adamski 2008). In Fennoscandia it is distributed in South-Finland

(Kullberg et al. 2001) and in Sweden, where it is considered rare, north to Uppland and Värmland (Gustafsson 2011, Svensson et al. 1994).

*Wockia asperipunctella* is a relatively broad-winged moth with wingspan 17–18mm. The forewing is grey with groups of raised scales at  $\frac{1}{3}$  from the base and additional black dots scattered on the wing. The hindwing is grey, in male with a yellowish hairpencil in the base below the folded anterior margin. Although it lacks striking pattern and coloration, the groups of raised scales in the forewing makes it easy to recognize. Kyrki (1988) figured the venation and the genitalia of both sexes.

In northern Europe the moth flies in one generation from the end of May to the beginning of July. In Central Europe it has two generations. The larva feeds in July–August on leaves of *Populus tremula*. The pupa hibernates in an open network cocoon on the ground. In Central Europe the larva may utilize other species of *Populus* and even various *Salix* species (Kyrki 1988).



FIGURE 1. The Norwegian specimen of *Wockia asperipunctella* (Bruand, 1851). Photo: Karsten Sund.



FIGURE 2. The locality in Halden: Grønnbakke, where *Wockia asperipunctella* (Bruand, 1851) was collected. Photo: Ole J. Lønnve.



**FIGURE 3.** Halden, Grønnbakke, view towards southwest. (Photo: O. J. Lønnve.)

## The record

The first Norwegian specimen, a male, (Figs 2–3) was collected in Østfold (Ø), Halden: Idd, Grønnbakke UTM: 32V PL 37045 51919 (EIS 20) on 29 May 2008, leg. O. J. Lønnve. The specimen is preserved in the collection of the Natural History Museum, University of Oslo. The site is a dry and west-facing exposed slope close to the innermost part of the fiord Iddefjorden (Figure 2). The altitude is between 0 and 50m. The bedrock is granite which is poor in nutrients, but there are also pockets of marine deposits with fertile soil (Claus Christiansen pers. comm.). The following tree species are present: *Betula pubescens* Ehrh., *Populus tremula* L., *Salix caprea* L., *Sorbus aucuparia* L., *Alnus incana* (L.) Moench., *Corylus avellana* L., *Prunus padus* L., *Pinus sylvestris* L. and *Picea abies* (L.) Karsten. The *P. tremula* trees vary from very young to larger mature trees. For more detailed description of the biological qualities of the area, see Klepsland et al. (2009).

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