

Catocala adultera Ménétériés, 1856 (Lepidoptera, Erebidae) new to Norway

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The first records from Norway of the underwing moth *Catocala adultera* Ménétériés, 1856 are reported, from county Nordland. Five specimens were collected in Rana and Lurøy municipalities in the period 31 August–13 September 2006. A sixth individual was photographed in Fauske municipality 16 September 2006.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuoidea, Erebidae, *Catocala adultera*, Norway, new record.

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Introduction

The underwing moth *Catocala adultera* Ménétériés, 1856 is predominantly a Russian species, described from the Saint Petersburg area (Ménétériés 1856) and extending west to Finland (Skou 1991, Goater *et al.* 2003). Skou (1991) described it as rather uncommon in Finland, but possibly established in the southeast of the country. *Catocala adultera* is a periodic immigrant in large numbers to Finland from the east and southeast, with major waves being noted in 1954, 1960, 1972 and 1973, during which they have reached as far as 70° N, and an irregular immigrant to Sweden and Denmark (Skou 1991). *Catocala adultera* is associated with deciduous forest with aspen *Populus tremula* on which the larva feeds, and the flight period is from late July to early September.

Given its frequency and recent expansion in Finland, and its occasional occurrence in Sweden and Denmark, it was foreseeable that *Catocala adultera* would eventually be recorded in Norway as well. Its occurrence here was finally confirmed in the region of the Arctic Circle in 2006, details of which are presented below.

Material and methods

Over a period of two weeks in late August–early September 2006 five individuals of *Catocala adultera* that had been attracted to light sources were collected in the municipalities of Rana and Lurøy, county Nordland (Figure 1). One of the individuals were caught while resting next to outdoor lights, and the rest in light traps set for nocturnal Lepidoptera. A sixth individual, also attracted to outdoor light, was photographed in Fauske municipality a few days thereafter, about 100km north of the other records (Figure 2). The five collected specimens were incorporated in the collections of Helgeland Museum, Natural History Department (referred to as RMZ).

Records

NSI Rana: Alteren (EIS 123, UTM WGS84 33W VP 53699 54541) 31 August 2006, 1♀, attracted to light-trap, leg. Stig Lundmo, coll. RMZ 7223-1; **NSI** Rana: Båsmoen, Stenneset bygdetun (EIS 123, UTM WGS84 33W VP 59345 56765) 2



FIGURE 1. The five collected specimens of *Catocala adultera* Ménétriés, 1856 from Lurøy and Rana in 2006. Photo: Stig Lundmo/Helgeland Museum.

September 2006, 1♂, attracted to light-trap, leg. Jostein Solvang, coll. RMZ 7224-1; **NSI** Rana: Båsmoen, Stenneset bygdetun (EIS 123, UTM WGS84 33W VP 59345 56765) 13 September 2006, 1♀, attracted to light-trap, leg. Jostein Solvang, coll. RMZ 7226-1. Specimen later donated to Natural History Museum, University of Oslo where given new reference number 237021; **NSI** Rana: Dalselv (EIS 119, UTM WGS84 33W VP 54196 48606) 5 September 2006, 1♀, attracted to outdoor light, leg. Harald Grønbold, coll. RMZ 7210; **NSI** Fauske: Kvitblik (EIS 131, UTM WGS84 33W WQ 219 709) 16 September 2006, attracted to outdoor light, photographed by Elisabeth Grønås; **NSY** Lurøy: Kvina (EIS 122, UTM WGS84 33W VP 18460 72824) 4 September 2006, 1♀, attracted to light-trap, leg. Jostein Solvang, coll. RMZ 7225-1.

All six specimens were found at a maximum altitude of approximately 50 m.a.s.l.

Discussion

These records are in accordance with the overall distribution, with 2006 being a noticeable invasion year in Sweden as well (Lindeborg 2007). There, 16 individuals were recorded from five localities in northern and central parts of the country, spanning the time period mid July to mid September. The following year only two individuals were reported, both in county Norrbotten with one in the Torne valley at the border to Finland and the other about 200 km further southwest (Lindeborg 2008).

In Finland, the species is sufficiently common and widespread not to draw full attention of



FIGURE 2. *Catocala adultera* Ménétriés, 1856 at Kvitblik, Fauske 16 September 2006. The Juniper Carpet *Thera juniperata* perched above constitutes one of the northernmost records of this species in Norway. Photo: Elisabeth Grønås.

collectors, and more than 380 individuals were reported from mid July until at least 10 October 2006 (J. Kullberg *in litt.* 2013). The majority of records were south of 64° N and in the southeast with a few up to about 66° N, including 15 individuals caught at Tornio close to the Swedish border in August and September. Such a number in northern Finland is noteworthy and an indication of a strong invasion from further east.

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