Abstract

For the first time, 13 species are reported for the Lepidoptera fauna of Lampedusa Island. *Bifascioides leucomelanella* and *Ceutholopha isidis* are new to Italy. The presence of *Azanus ubaldus* is confirmed.

Introduction

Research on Lepidoptera fauna in Central Italy has been carried out for many years and showed how much the fauna (Pinzari, 2016b; Pinzari & Pinzari, 2019a,b; Pinzari *et al.*, 2018b) and biology (Pinzari & Sbordoni, 2013; Pinzari, 2016a, 2019; Pinzari *et al.*, 2017, 2018a, 2019, 2019a) of Lepidoptera in Italy are still scarcely known. Recently, the survey has also been extended to the southern Italy and isles leading results that prompt further investigation.

During a short survey on Lepidoptera fauna in Lampedusa we collected a few species that are still unknown for the island. Although short surveys lead to the collection of few specimens and species, however they can reveal interesting species of biogeographic relevance (*e.g.*, *Acleris lorquiniana* (Duponchel, 1835), rare species in Italy, Pinzari & Pinzari, 2013; *Scythris clavella* (Zeller, 1855), new to Peninsular Italy, Pinzari, 2016; *Clepsis peritana* (Clemens, 1860), an alien species, Pinzari *et al.*, 2018) and give an important contribution in shaping their distribution in Italy.

In this framework, we report the species newly recorded for Lampedusa and confirm the presence through time in the island also of some species already sighted in the past.

Materials and Methods

The Lepidoptera were collected from July 16th to 22nd, 2018. A variety of systems has been employed in order to survey as many Lepidoptera species as possible: netting for the day-active species; lamp (Mixed Light 160 W), which was mounted in a fixed site (terrace) with electricity available in the centre of the town of Lampedusa; and, finally pheromone baits for Sesiidae moths.

The specimens are deposited in the private collection of Mario Pinzari (Rome, Italy).

Checklist of species new to Lampedusa

**Plutellidae**

*Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Records.** 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.
Cosmopterigidae

Bifascioides leucomelanella (Rebel, 1917) (Figure 1A)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Life History. Biology unknown. In Malta, adults have been collected in February and from May till the end of August. There is probably more than one generation (Koster & Sammut, 2006).

Gelechiidae

Tuta absoluta (Meyrick, 1917)
Records. 1 ♀ (gen. praep. GELE 933 M. Pinzari), Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Pyralidae

Ceutholopa isidis (Zeller, 1867) (Figure 1B)
Records. 1 ♂ (gen. praep. PIRA 433 M. Pinzari), Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Life History. Akin (2018) mentioned as host plants Acacia tortilis (Forssk.) Hayne, A. farnesiana (L.) Willd., A. nilotica (L.) Delile (Fabaceae) and Rhus oxyacantha (Anacardiaceae) (Leraut, 2014; De Prins and De Prins, 2018).

Euphorbia bigella (Zeller, 1848)
Records. 1 ♀ (gen. praep. PIRA 431 M. Pinzari), Lampedusa (city), 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Ephesia welseriella (Zeller, 1848)
Records. 1 ♂ (gen. praep. PIRA 435 M. Pinzari), Lampedusa (city), 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Cadra calidella (Guenée, 1845)
Records. 1 ♀ (gen. praep. PIRA 433 M. Pinzari), Lampedusa (city), 21.VII.2018; 1 ♀ (gen. praep. PIRA 434 M. Pinzari), idem, 21.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Erebidae

Pandesma robusta (Walker, 1858) (Figure 1C)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Hypena lividalis (Hübner, 1796)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Eublemma parva (Hübner, 1808)
Records. 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Noctuidae

Helicoverpa armigera (Hübner, 1808)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 21.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Spodoptera cilium Guenée, 1852
Records. 4 ♂♂ (gen. praep. NOCT 58 M. Pinzari), 2 ♀♀, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Other species

Bembecia hymenopteriformis (Bellier, 1860) (Aistleitner & Aistleitner, 2001)
Records. 3 ♂♂, Cala Francese, 17.VII.2018, 14 ♂♂, idem, 20.VII.2018; 2 ♂♂, Sciatu Persu, 18.VII.2018, 3 ♂♂, idem, 21.VII.2018, 2 ♂♂, idem, 22.VII.2018; 1 ♂, 35th parallel north, 50 m, 19.VII.2018; 1 ♂, Cala Pulcino, 19.VII.2018; 1 ♂, Cala Croce, 20.VII.2018; 3 ♂, Cala Pisana, 21.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Aporodes florialis (Hübner, 1809) (Ragusa, 1892)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 20.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg, Hellula undalis (Fabricius, 1781) (Prola. In Zavattari, 1960): Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Hydiris ornalis (Duponchel, 1832) (Prola. In: Zavattari, 1960)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg. Herpetogramma licarsisalis (Walker, 1859) (Fiumi & Guidi, 2011): Records. 1 ♂ (gen. praep. PIRA 435 M. Pinzari), Cala Francese, 17.VII.2018; M. Pinzari leg.

Pieris brassicae (Linnaeus, 1758) (Calcara, 1847)
Records. 4 pupae, Lampedusa (city), 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Leptotes pittivus (Linnaeus, 1767) (Vodă et al., 2016)
Records. 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Sciatu Persu, 18.VII.2018; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. Pinzari leg.

Azanus ubaldus (Stoll, [1782]) (Figure 1D) (Caporale & Guidi, 2013)
Records. 13 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Sciatu Persu, 22.VII.2018, M. Pinzari leg.

Polymommatus celina (Austaut, 1879) (Prola. In Zavattari, 1960, sub P. icarus; Vodă et al., 2015)
Records. 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Cala Francese, 17.VII.2018; M. Pinzari leg.

Rhodometra sacaria (Linnaeus, 1767) (Prola. In: Zavattari, 1960; Fiumi et al., 2007)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018, 1 ♂, idem, 18.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Gymnoscelis rufifasciata (Haworth, [1809]) (Romano & Romano, 1995)
Records. 1 ♀, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Heliothis peltigera (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) (Prola. In: Zavattari, 1960)
Records. 1 ♂, Lampedusa (city), 16.VII.2018, 1 ♂, idem, 17.VII.2018; M. & M. Pinzari leg.

Conclusions

The sample of species collected in the study area, although quantitatively small, confirms the importance but also the fragility of the fauna of Lampedusa as a bridge between Europe and Africa.

In fact, biogeographically interesting species coexist in Lampedusa with alien species and pests from the rest of the world. Bifascioides leucomelanella (Figure 1A), and Ceutholopa isidis (Figure 1B) and Pandesma robusta (Figure 1C) represent...
some examples. As concerns the first two species, we record them for the first time in Lampedusa. *Bifascioides leucomelanella* was sighted in Europe only for Malta (Koster & Sammut, 2006) while *C. isidis*, which is widely spread up to Africa South and India, was recorded in Portugal (Corley et al., 2014), in Spain, Malta and England (Revilla & Gaston, 2014). *Pandesma robusta* (Figure 1C) is a rare African migrant that has never been reported before for Lampedusa but is known for Pantelleria (Aistleitner & Aistleitner, 2001), Sicily (Bella & Russo, 1999; Zafarana et al., 2017), Calabria (Scalercio & Parenzan, 2000) and Latium (Zilli et al., 2001). We can confirm therefore the presence of *Azanus ubaldus* (Figure 1D) which was observed for the first time on Lampedusa in 2010 at Albero Sole by Caporale and Guidi (2013). It is a Paleotropical species, common from the dry areas in Southern Africa to Somalia in Eastern Africa (D’Abrera, 2009). It has presumably spread from N. Africa where the species is present in Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt (Tolman & Lewington, 1997). The presence of the taxon on the island can be considered to be stable not to derive from random migrations from Mediterranean coasts of the North-African countries. In fact, we observed several males of *A. ubaldus* that were resting on the tips of the dry branches of bushes surrounding flowers of *Acacia karoo* Hayne. They presumably waited for intercepting quickly flying females around the acacias. In Lampedusa, *Acacia karoo* may be the main food source in summer for this taxon (Caporale & Guidi, 2013) and other species recorded (e.g. *Leptotes piritotus* adults fed on flowers).

Unexpectedly, we did not find either adults and caterpillars of *Danaus chrysippus* (Linnaeus 1758) as reported by Arnone and Romano (1991) on *Caralluma europaea* (Guss.) N.E.Br. (Pisciotto et al., 2008), or individuals of *Zizeeria karsandra* (Moore, 1865) (sub. *knysna*) (Romano & Romano, 1995).

All other species listed in this paper and recorded for the first time in Lampedusa are widely spread in Europe and in particular in Italy (including Sicily) and Malta (Karsholt & Razowski, 1996; Karsholt & Nieuwerken van, 2013).

Finally, it is important to mention also the presence in Lampedusa of ubiquitous and widespread species throughout Europe and in most of the world: *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner, 1808), *Tuta absoluta* (Meyrick, 1917), *Euzophera bigella* (Zeller, 1848) and *Lobesia botrana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). The last three species are pests of tomato (*T. absoluta*, Desneux et al., 2011), fruits and olive (*E. bigella*, Simoglou et al., 2012), and grape (*L. botrana*, Duso et al., 1992). They are already known for Malta (Andria & Catenia, 2009). *Tuta absoluta* is a very challenging pest to control because of its parthenogenetic reproduction and polygynic nature of males (Megido et al., 2013).

References

AISTLEITNER E., AISTLEITNER U., 2001 - Weitere Notizen zur Lepidopterenfauna von Pantelleria, den Pelagischen und...
LERAUT P., 2014 - Moths of Europe. Vol. 4: Pyralids 2. N.A.P.
MEGIDo R.C., hAUBRUGE É., VERhEGGEN F.J., 2013 -
KoSTER S.J.C., SAMMUT P., 2006 - Faunistic notes on
DUSo C., MoLINARI F., PASQUALINI E., 1992 -
CARALLUma europaeea (Linnaeus, 1758) in Sicilia (Lepidoptera, Danaiidae). - Naturalista Sicil. S. IV, XV: 161-166.
BELLA S., RUSSO P., 1999 - Pandexma robusta new to the Italian
KARShoLT o., RAZoWSKI J . 1996. The Lepidoptera of
BELLA S., RUSSO P., 1999 - Nuovi reperti di Danaus chrysippus
ARNoNE M., RoMANO M., 1991 - Nuovi reperti di Pandexma botanica (Denis & Schiffermüller). In: ZANGhERI S.,
Lobesia hermione genava Grayling butterflies: (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Satyrinae). - PLoS ONE 13: e0199997.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., SBORDONI V., 2017 - Notes on Life-History of Erycia furibunda (Diptera: Tachinidae), A parasitoid of Euphydryas aurinia provincialis (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). - Redia 102: 89-94.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., SBORDONI V., 2019b - Make it simple: mating behaviour of Euphydryas aurinia provincialis (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). - Eur. Zool. J., 86: 220-232.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., 2016b - Chemical and morphological diagnosis of Afrotropical moth species (Lepidoptera). Nokia at: http://www.nokiaat.org
PISCIoTT o., AGUSA E., 1892. Breve gita entomologica all'Isola di Lampedusa. - Naturalista Sicil. 11: 234-238.
KARSHoLT o., NIEUKERKEN VAN E.J., 2013 - Lepidoptera. - Biotechnol. Agron. Soc. Environ. 17: 475-482.
PINZARI M., 2016b - Scythris clavella (Zeller, 1855) in Italy (Lepidoptera, Gelechioidae Scythridiidae). - J. Entomol. Acarol. Res. 48: 301-303.
PINZARI M., 2019 - Phyllonica sisyphia (Araneae: Theridiidae), a predator of larvae of Euphydryas aurinia (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) and its parasitoid Erycia furibunda (Diptera: Tachinidae). - Acta Zool. Bulgar. 71: 195-200.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., 2013 - Acleris lortquiniana (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), in Central Italy. - J. Entomol. Acarol. Res. 45: 12-13.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., 2019a - Genus Delplanqueia Leraut, 2001 and D. inscriptella (Duponchel, 1836) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) in Italy. - J. Entomol. Acarol. Res. 51: 8168.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M. 2019b - Genus Pemphicella Caradja, 1916 and P. bayassensis Leraut, 2001 (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae) in Italy. - ZooKeys 854: 131-144.
PINZARI M., CIANFERRONI F., FABIANI A., DIOLI P., 2019a - Predation by nymphs of Picromerus bidens (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae, Asopinae) on caterpillars of Euphydryas aurinia provincialis (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) in Italy. - Redia 102: 81-87.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., SBORDONI V., 2019b - Make it simple: mating behaviour of Euphydryas aurinia provincialis (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). - Eur. Zool. J., 86: 220-232.
PINZARI M., SANTONICO M., PENNAZZA G., MARTINELLI E., CAPUANO R.M., PAOLESSE R., DI RAo M., D'AMICo A., CESARONI D., SBORDONI V., DI NATALE C., 2018a - Chemically mediated species recognition in two sympatric Grayling butterflies: Hipparchia fagi and Hipparchia hormione (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Satyrinae). - PLoS ONE 13: e0199997.
PINZARI M., PINZARI M., SBORDONI V., 2013 - Species and mate recognition in two sympatric Grayling butterflies: Hipparchia fagi and H. hormione genava (Lepidoptera). - Ethol. Ecol. Evol. 25: 28-51.
PINZARI M., ZERUNIAN Z., PINZARI M., 2018b - Is the alien species Clepsis peritana (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) settling in Italy? - J. Entomol. Acarol. Res. 50: 7551.
PISCIOTTA S., ZITO P., SAEJVA M., 2008 - Danaus chrysippus (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera Nymphalidae) larvae feeding on Caralluma europaea (Guss.) N.E.Br. (Asclepiadaceae) in Lampedusa island. - Naturalista Sicil. S. IV, XXXII: 241-51.
PROLA C., 1960 - Fauna. Lepidoptera. In: Zavattari E., Biogeografia delle Isole Pelagie. - Rendiconti Accademia Nazionale dei XL, 11: 349-358.
RAGUSA E., 1892. Breve gia entomologica all’Isola di Lampedusa. - Naturalista Sicil. 11: 234-238.
REVILLA T.X., GASTÓN J., 2014 - Cetholophia isidis Zeller, 1867, nuovo phycitinae para la peninsula iberica (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae: Phycitinae). - Boletín de la Sociedad Entomológica Aragonesa (S.E.A.) 54: 340-341.
ROMANO F.P., ROMANO M., 1995 - Lepidoptera. In: Massa B. Anthropsida di Lampedusa, Linoza e Pantelleria (Canale di Sicilia, Mar Mediterraneo). - Naturalista Sicil. S. XIX: 693-722.
SCALERCIo S., PARENZAN P., 2000 - Pandesma robusta (Walker, 1858) (Noctuidae, Catocalinae) e Calamodes subscutularia (Turatí, 1919) (Geometridae, Ennominae), specie nuove per la fauna dell’Italia continentale (Lepidoptera), - Entomologica 34:133-42.
SIMOGLOU K.B., KARATARAKI A., RODITAKIS N. E., RODITAKIS E., 2012 - *Euzophera bigella* (Zeller) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) and *Dasineura oleae* (F. Low) (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae): Emerging olive crop pests in the Mediterranean? - J. Pest Sci. 85: 169-177.

TOLMAN T., LEWINGTON R., 1997 - Collins Field Guide Butterflies of Britain & Europe. Harper Collins, London: 85 pp.

VODĂ R., DAPPORTO L., DINCĂ V., VILA R., 2015 - Why do cryptic species tend not to co-occur? A case study on two cryptic pairs of butterflies. - PLoS One 10: e0117802.

VODĂ R., DAPPORTO L., VLAD DINCĂ V., SHREEVE T.G., KHALDI M., BARECH G., REBBAS K., SAMMUT P., SCALERCIO S., HEBERT P.D.N., VILA R., 2016 - Historical and contemporary factors generate unique butterfly communities on islands. - SHILAP Rev. Lepidopterol. 6: 28828.

ZAFARANA M.A., ZAFARANA S., LEOTTA R., 2017 - Nuove osservazioni di *Pandesma robusta* (Walker, 1858) (Lepidoptera Noctuoidea Erebidae) in Sicilia. - Naturalista Sicil. S. IV, XLI: 107-108.

ZILLI A., MALTZEFF P., PINZARI M., RAINERI V. 2001 - I Lepidotteri della Tenuta Presidenziale di Castelporziano (Lepidoptera). - Boll. Assoc. Rom. Entomol. 56: 13-48.