

## Two corrections to the Noctuidae fauna of Portugal

Martin Corley

*Pucketty Farm Cottage, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 8JP, U.K. email: martin.corley@btinternet.com*  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4240-8007>

### Introduction

During the compilation of the Portuguese checklist (Corley, 2015) every effort was made to ensure that there were no errors of identification. Inevitably this process was not entirely successful and since 2015 there have been a number of corrections, which have mainly been published in the annual 'New and Interesting' papers published in SHILAP. Often these have been as a result of new knowledge becoming available that was not available in 2015.

Recent work by Jose Luis Yela and others aiming to produce maps of the distribution of all Noctuoidea in the Iberian Peninsula has resulted in some queries regarding Portuguese records. Here two species are reconsidered.

### ***Archanara dissoluta* (Treitschke, 1825)**

*Archanara dissoluta* (Treitschke, 1825) was recorded by Brian Elliott from Lagoa de Santo André in Baixo Alentejo sometime between 16.ix.1995 and 10.x.1995. The record was published in Corley (2004). The specimens that Elliott collected were given to Barry Goater, whose collection eventually went to the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. Regrettably when compiling moth data for Lagoa de Santo André I did not consider it necessary to confirm Elliott's record, as I knew him to be a lepidopterist with many years of experience collecting in the U.K. who was undoubtedly familiar with *A. dissoluta*. Barry Goater provided me with Elliott's data and he had not questioned the record.

The only other records of this species in the Iberian Peninsula are from North-East Spain with an earlier flight period than the Portuguese record. Since the doubts expressed by Yela regarding the record, I have been informed (Ole Karsholt, pers. comm.) that there is no Portuguese specimen in Copenhagen. I have also questioned Brian Elliott. He thinks the specimen was not collected as it was quite worn and with the benefit of hindsight, he thinks it was probably a worn specimen of *Proxenus hospes* (Freyer, 1831).

There is therefore no evidence that *A. dissoluta* occurs in Portugal and the species must be deleted from the Portuguese list.

### ***Epipsilia latens* (Hübner, 1809)**

On 13.vii.2009 I collected a single female of an *Epipsilia* at light at Covão do Boi, Serra da Estrela. Three species of *Epipsilia* are known in the Iberian Peninsula, which are externally very similar. Using Noctuidae Europaeae 2 and 3 (Fibiger, 1993, 1997) I initially suspected this was *E. grisescens* (Fabricius, 1794), but decided that a male was necessary for more definite identification. Two years later on 3.viii.2011 I was able to obtain a male from the same locality.

From this *E. grisescens* could be rejected, leaving a choice between *E. latens* (Hübner, 1809) and *E. cervantes* (Reisser, 1935). From a biogeographical perspective, *E. cervantes*, described from Serra de Gredos, appeared the most likely possibility, although the more frequent rainfall and slightly less cold winters in Portugal can result in unexpected distributions, such as that of *Setina cantabrica* Freina & Witt, 1985 (Corley, 2013), so I could not exclude *E. latens* on this basis alone. Based on Fibiger (1997) the male genitalia appeared to be a better match for *E. latens* and the record was published under this name (Corley *et al.*, 2012).

There have been two subsequent records from the same area: By the tunnel at Cântaro Raso, Serra da Estrela, 15.viii.2014, Fernando Romão; Covão do Boi, 1.viii.2018, Jorge Rosete.

José Luis Yela expressed strong doubts regarding the identification of Portuguese specimens as *E. latens*. He indicated that the genitalia are not reliable for separating these species, but pointed to the ciliation of the male antennae as a really reliable character for separating *E. latens* and *E. cervantes*. In *E. latens* the cilia are around half as long as the width of the antennal segments, while in *E. cervantes* they are equal to the width of the antennal segments. Using this character there is absolutely no doubt that the Portuguese *Epipsilia* is *E. cervantes*. It is unfortunate that this character is not mentioned in Noctuidae Europaeae (Fibiger, 1993, 1997), as this would have allowed correct identification in the first place. *Epipsilia cervantes* must therefore be added to the Portuguese fauna list and *E. latens* deleted.

Unfortunately both *Archanara dissoluta* and *Epipsilia latens* were included in the Portuguese Red List of Invertebrates. The status given for *E. latens* should be transferred to *E. cervantes*.

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