THE CRAMBINAE OF FLORIDA*

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The following is a list of the moths of the subfamily Crambinae so far as they are known to occur in Florida. The records come both from published accounts and from data collected from museum specimens. I have gone carefully over the material in the National Museum at Washington, and early in March 1922 I had the privilege of spending several days examining the material in the magnificent collection of Dr. Wm. Barnes at Decatur, Ill. It is with his permission that the localities represented there for the various species are included in the present list. I am greatly indebted to him for his kindness and generosity and I take pleasure in acknowledging herewith my gratitude to him for the numerous courtesies he showed me. Several other smaller collections have been visited in which an occasional Florida specimen was found. The available literature has been thoroughly canvassed and, so far as possible, the first author reporting the occurrence of a species in the state has been given credit therefor.

This list contains 36 species and varieties whose occurrence in the state is well authenticated. Three others are listed which, for one reason or another, have no right to the places they have been previously given and hereafter should be dropped. The list for Florida is probably more nearly complete than those for most of the other states, due to the fact that Florida is a favorite collecting ground, especially in winter, and at various times has been visited by many lepidopterists and collectors. So far as I know, however, no one interested especially in the smaller moths has collected consistently throughout the year and it is likely

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that other species will be found whose season of adult activity occurs in the summer or fall.

It is with the hope of stimulating interest in this group that this list is published and also that by the combination of many such small bits a complete list of the Florida insects may some day be possible.

**Argyria argentana Martyn.**

First reported "aus Georgien in Florida" by Hubner in 1818 as the type locality of *nummulalis* which, by all modern authorities is now accepted as a synonym of *argentana* Martyn. Listed from Florida also by Fernald (1896) and Dyar (1902). In the National Museum there are specimens from Coccoanut Grove (Schwarz), Miami (Schaus) and Ft. Drum. In the Barnes collection there are also specimens from Hastings (Kearfott), Ft. Myers, St. Petersburg (Ludwig), and Crescent City. I have taken it at Orlando and Lakeland.

**Argyria auratella** Clemens.

Fernald (1896) first reported this species from Florida. The National Museum contains specimens from Tallahassee, and Lakeland (Ainslie). Dr. Barnes has specimens from Everglade and Hastings (Kearfott). This species is widely distributed, having been reported from Nova Scotia and Manitoba to California and Florida.

**Argyria consortalis** Dyar.

A species described by Dyar (1909) and known only from its type locality, Dade City, Fla.

**Argyria critica** Forbes.

Described by Forbes (1920) from North Carolina with paratypes in the Barnes collection from Everglade and Hastings. This species had previously been confused with *auratella* and doubtless in many collections still stands under that name.

**Argyria lacteella** Fab.

The smallest native species of this genus. First recorded from Florida by Fernald (1896). Specimens in the National Museum from Archer, Miami (Schaus), Lakeland (Ainslie) and in Barnes' collection from Fort Myers. Although occurring as far north as Pennsylvania and Maryland, this species covers also the West Indies and Central and South America. I have found it very abundant at times near Lakeland and have taken it also at Orlando and Gainesville. It is very variable in markings which accounts for the half dozen or more names in its synonymy.

**Argyria nivalis** Drury.

First recorded from the state by Fernald (1896). Dyar (1901) notes one specimen taken at Lake Worth. The National Museum contains a specimen from Coccoanut Grove (Schwarz) and Barnes has a specimen from Fort Myers. I have taken it at Lakeland, Orlando and Port Tampa.

**Chilo plejadellus** Zincken.

The rice stalk-borer. Has never been reported from Florida but in Dr. Barnes' collection there is a single specimen from Hastings.
Crambus caliginosellus Clemens.

This species is included in the Florida list because of a single specimen in Dr. Barnes’ collection labeled “Hastings, Fla., Coll. of W. W. Kearfott.”

Crambus decorellus Zincken.

There are three specimens in the National Museum taken at Archer in March 1882 and four in Dr. Barnes’ collection taken at Fort Myers in April and May. No previous published record from the state.

Crambus elegans.

Two specimens in the National Museum from Miami (Schwarz) and Archer.

Crambus haytiellus Zincken.

Not previously recorded from Florida. The National Museum has specimens from Coconut Grove (Schwarz) and Key West and Dr. Barnes, others from Everglades, Fort Myers and Chokoloskee.

Crambus multihilicus Fernald.

Originally described from Florida by Fernald (1887). Specimens are in the National Museum from Hastings and in Barnes’ collection from Fort Myers.

Crambus mutabilis Clemens.

First recorded from the state by Grote (1880) under the name fusco-costellus Zeller. There are specimens in the National Museum, from Palm Beach (Dyar) and Archer and in Dr. Barnes’ collection from Fort Myers and Lakeland. I have taken specimens at Fellsmere, Lakeland, Port Tampa and Orlando. At the latter place it was abundant at light during February and March.

Crambus praefectellus Zincken.

Although widely distributed over the state, this species has not previously been reported from Florida. There are specimens in the National Museum from Jacksonville (Ashmead). I have collected it at Gainesville, Fellsmere, Lakeland and Orlando. At Lakeland larvae were found attacking young corn.

Crambus quinqueareatus Zeller.

This species has heretofore been listed as hastiferellus Walker and has been reported from Florida under that name by Felt (1894). A comparison with the type of quinqueareatus Zeller in the British Museum made by Dr. McDunnough, shows the common Florida form to be this species. If Felt (1894) is correct in the determination of the species he calls extorralis Hulest, it becomes a synonym of quinqueareatus for the genitalia are identical. Hastiferellus is a northern form originally described from Nova Scotia and apparently never authentically reported from the South. Quinqueareatus was described from Texas and has been taken at numerous points in Florida. Felt (1894) is the first to record it from Florida under the name extorralis and hastiferellus. There are specimens in the National Museum from Palm Beach (Dyar) and Miami (Schaus), in the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh from Daytona (Laurent), and in Dr. Barnes’ collection from Fort Myers, Chokoloskee, Hastings, Lakeland, LaBelle and
Dade City. I have also taken it at Lakeland, Plymouth and Fellsmere and repeatedly at Orlando, both at light and in the field. It is one of the most abundant species at light at Orlando during February and March.

*Crambus satrapellus* Zincken.

First recorded from the state by Grote (1880). There is one specimen in the National Museum from Dade City, in the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh one from Melbourne (Laurent) and in Barnes' collection specimens from Fort Myers, Marco, Dade City, Hastings, and Kissimmee. I have collected it at Orlando, Lakeland, Plymouth and Fellsmere.

*Crambus trisacus* Dyar.

Described from specimens from Miami (Dyar) and in Barnes' collection there are also specimens from St. Petersburg.

? *Crambus trisectus* Walker.

There are three specimens in the National Museum collection bearing the simple label "Fla." It is very doubtful, however, if these are correctly labeled for otherwise east of the Mississippi River the species is not known to extend farther south than the northern edge of Tennessee. It should not be listed as a Florida species without corroboration.

*Crambus zeelus* Fernald.

Not previously recorded from Florida. One specimen in the National Museum from Lakeland (Ainslie) and several in Barnes' collection from Hastings. I have also taken specimens referable here at Lakeland, Port Tampa and Orlando.

*Diatraea differentialis* Fernald.

This huge species, spreading 1½ to 2½ inches, was originally described from Florida by Fernald (1888) and all the specimens which I have seen in collections have been from this state. There are specimens in Barnes' collection from St. Petersburg (Ludwig), Fort Myers, Kissimmee, Venice, Chokoloskee and Palm Beach, and one in the National Museum from Fort Myers (Davis).

*Diatraea saccharalis crambidoides* Grote.

This is the destructive sugar-cane moth-borer which also attacks Japanese cane and, much more rarely, corn. According to Holloway (1919) it occurs practically throughout peninsular Florida as far north as Gainesville.

*Diatraea saccharalis* Fab.

The typical and more southern form occurring in the West Indies and South America. Dyar (1911) records a single specimen from southern Florida.

*Diatraea zeacolella* Dyar.

Because of the long-standing confusion between this, the larger cornstalk-borer, and *D. saccharalis crambidoides*, the sugar-cane moth-borer of our southern states, it is difficult to determine just who first reported this species from Florida. Holloway and Loftin (1919) state that it occurs in northern Florida.
Dicymolomia julianalis Walker.

The larvae feed in heads of cattail, Typha latifolia. A single specimen in Dr. Barnes' collection from Everglade. Not heretofore recorded from the state.

Dicymolomia pegasus Walker.

Recorded from the southern states but never definitely from Florida. There are specimens in Dr. Barnes' collection from Lakeland, Chokoloskee and Glenwood.

Boreuma densellus Zeller.

This species was originally described from Texas while multilineatella Hulst was described from Florida. The latter species was reduced to a synonym of the former by Smith (1891) and his verdict was generally accepted until Dyar (1909) showed it to be an error and resurrected multilineatella Hulst as a valid species. For these reasons the literature of densellus is confused and it is impossible to say to which of the two species reference is made. In the National Museum there are specimens from Palm Beach (Dyar), Cooanut Grove (Schwarz) and Everglade, and in Barnes' collection from Hastings, Chokoloskee and Everglade.

Eugrota dentella Fernald.

Originally described from Florida by Fernald (1896) and apparently not taken since.

Eugrota incertella Zincken.

Not heretofore recorded from the state. A single specimen in Dr. Barnes' collection from Fort Myers.

Iesta lisetta Dyar.

Originally described from Dade City specimens by Dyar (1909). There is other material in the National Museum from Lakeland (Ainslie) and LaBelle. In Dr. Barnes' collection Glenwood and Fort Myers are represented in addition to those given above.

Platytes acerata Dyar.

A species described by Dyar (1917) from specimens from Dade City.

Platytes multilineatella Hulst.

Originally described from Florida by Hulst (1887). Long considered a synonym of densellus but resurrected and differentiated by Dyar (1909). There are specimens in the National Museum from Palm Beach (Dyar) and Dade City, and in Barnes' collection from Glenwood (Barnes), Hastings (Kearfott) and Chokoloskee. It has been taken at Orlando and Fellsmere by the writer.

Platytes punctilineella B. & McD.

Described by Barnes & McDunnough (1913) from Everglade. There are other specimens in Barnes' collection from Fort Myers and Marco.

Platytes squamulellus Zeller.

Not heretofore reported from the state. Three specimens in Barnes' collection from Everglade, one of which bears a label to the effect that it
has been compared with the presumable type of *aquamulellus* in the British Museum.

*Prionapteryx nebulifera* Stephens.

Hampson (1895) records this species from Florida without giving his authority. It may be an error as no other authors before or since so listed it.

*Prionapteryx serpentella* Kearfott.

Originally described by Kearfott (1908) from specimens from Cocoanut Grove (Schwarz). There is also another specimen in the National Museum labeled "Egmont", a place I have been unable to locate.

*Raphiptera minimella* Robinson.

Not heretofore recorded from the state. It has been taken at Orlando and Lakeland by the writer. There is a specimen in Dr. Barnes' collection from Hastings and two in the collection of the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh from Melbourne.

*Thaumatopsis actinellus* B. & McD.

Described from Florida material from Lakeland and St. Petersburg by Barnes & McDunnough (1918). Also a paratype in their collection from "Stemper, Fla.", another place I cannot locate.

*Thaumatopsis fernaldellus* Kearfott.

In listing his paratypes of this species, Kearfott mentions one from Key West. Later, however, Barnes & McDunnough described *T. floridellus* and placed this Key West specimen under that name so that there is no record to show that *fernaldellus* occurs in the state and it should not be so listed.


The type material for this species came from Everglade and Marco. There is also in Barnes' collection the Key West specimen mentioned above.

REFERENCES

Barnes & McDunnough.


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Forbes, W. T. M.

Grote, A. R.

Hampson, G. F.

Holloway, T. E. & Loftin, U. C.

Hubner.
1918. Zutrag zur Sammlung exotischen Schmettinge.

Hulst, G. D.

Smith, J. B.
1891. List of the Lepidoptera of Boreal America.

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PERSONALS

Among the new assistant nursery inspectors are: C. C. Bennett, stationed with Fogg at Eustis; J. L. Lazenby, at New Smyrna; and O. D. Link at Clearwater.

The stork has passed out several favors to our members since our last issue, as witness U. C. Loftin, Jr., and Edward Murril Brown. Mr. James T. Marsh is also the proud father of a boy.

Mr. C. M. Hunt reports bag worms as damaging 25% of the fruit in a grove in Polk County. This is much the highest percent of damage from this insect of which we have ever heard.

Mr. F. F. Bibby is now located at Tlahualilo, Durango, Mexico. He is employed by the Federal Horticultural Board on pink bollworm work.

The State Plant Board has found a spider mite on Bauhenia not only new to Florida but one hitherto reported only from Hawaii. It is Eupalopsia pavoniformis.

Mr. Jeff Chaffin has for the past month been acting as Assistant to the Associate Entomologist of the State Plant Board. Mr. Hunt has taken his place in the Nursery Inspection Department.

Introducing the two new members elected at the February meeting of the Society: Mr. Walker is a vocational student in the University who is much interested in Entomology. He is acting as part time assistant in the Entomological Department of the State Plant Board. Mr. Trigg holds an industrial fellowship given thru the National Research Council. His work is the in-

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