

A new nearctic species of the genus *Catocala* Schrank
(Lepidoptera, Noctuidae).

By

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(With 4 figures).

Catocala orba, sp. n.¹⁾.

(Fig. 1a, 1b; ♂).

Fig. 1a.

Fig. 1b.

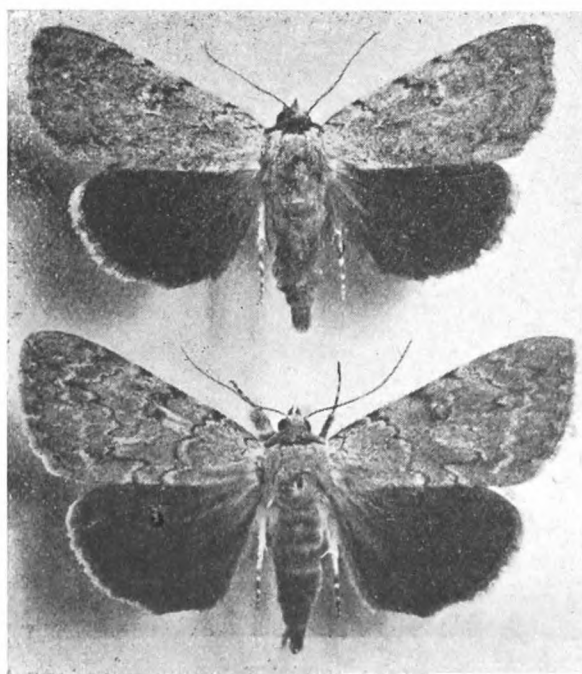


Fig. 2a.

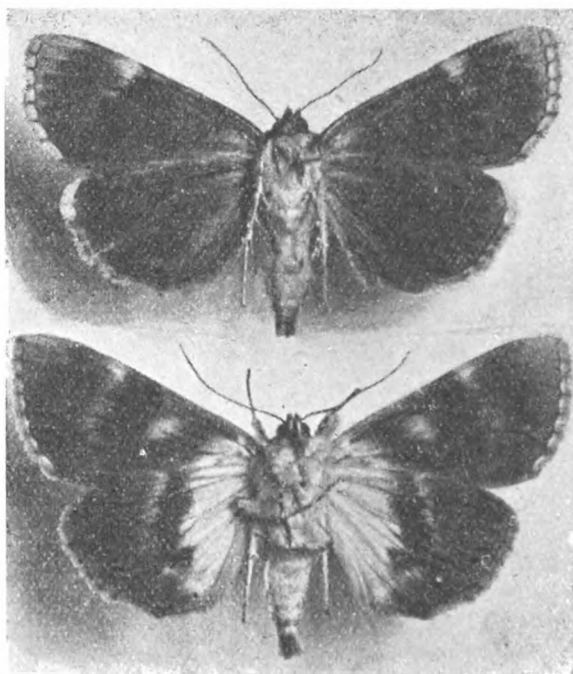


Fig. 2b.

Expanse of male 48 millim.; size of *Catocala judith* Strecker (*levettei* Grote).

Antennae of male ciliate, gray, scaled above, with slight tuftings of hairs below. [Palpi broken off]. Frons densely covered with whitish-gray hairs. Patagia (collar) and front parts of tegulae and mesothorax dark-brown; vertex gray; the rest of tegulae, nota, and crest on meta-thorax whitish-gray. Upper part, sides, and crests of the abdominal

¹⁾ Orba—orphan.

somites dark-gray; terminal (anal) tuft long, dark-gray, lighter below. Thorax on the underside and femora thickly clothed with long dirty-white hairs and scales. [Fore tibiae broken off]. Middle and hind tibiae and tarsi gray, spotted and ringed with black. First pair of spurs of hind tibiae very long and acute.

Forewings on the upperside pale gray (resembling somewhat the colour of fresh specimens of *Catocala concumbens* Walker), greatly suffused on costa and at base of wings with white scales; darker in terminal area. Transverse lines visible, but very indistinct. Subbasal half-line fine, angulated; basal dash absent. Antemedial (transverse anterior) line forms a brown spot on the whitish costa and two dentations below it; the rest indistinct. Median space with a dark spot in the middle of costa, running into the reniform. Postmedial line (transverse posterior) visible in its upper part alone, beginning with a dark spot on the white costa and forming two subequal dentations (teeth), filled inwardly with black; the rest indistinct. Subreniform absent. Reniform dark-gray, edged with pure-white. Subterminal waved line distinct, whitish, separated from the postmedial one by a light-brownish irregular shade. Marginal lunules very small, almost wanting. Cilia uniformly gray.

Hindwings on the upperside black, base covered by brownish-gray hairs. Cilia at apex (between veins 6—8) dirty-whitish, the rest dark gray.

Ground colour of wings on the underside black; fasciae very indistinct.

Forewings: base dark grayish-black, basal fascia absent; postmedial and subapical ones visible, more or less regularly excurved; between them, at costa, a large pure-white spot; apex triangular, white, suffused with isolated gray scales. Cilia white, with dark streaks from extremities of veins.

Hindwings dark grayish-black, a little lighter at base and costa; median fascia hardly visible, highly excurved at vein 3, thus forming a right angle. Cilia light gray, with darker median stripe, at apex (between veins 6—8) whitish.

Catocala orba belongs to the „blackwinged“ group of the genus, and resembles *C. judith* Streck. (*levettei* Grote) and its variety *miranda* Hy. Edw., but is not intimately allied to them, I believe.

From *C. judith* Streck. (fig. 2a, 2b) it differs²⁾ in having —
1) ground colour of forewings light gray, greatly suffused with white

²⁾ The figured specimen is a co-type kindly sent to me, among others, by the late Mr. Herman Streck., its author.

The original description of *C. judith* Streck. (*C. levettei* Grote) by Grote (Trans. Amer. Entom. Soc., 1874, p. 95) is as follows:

„Forewings pale smooth greenish gray, with very fine transverse black lines; the t. a. notched s. c. vein, thrice rather deeply waved. T. p. line exserted opposite the cell, with a more prominent tooth, edged outwardly with white, the narrow open subreniform white filled. Subterminal line dentate, whitish filled between fuscous shades, from vein six a fuscous shading crosses the terminal space obliquely to below the apices. Terminal black interspaceal

scales; 2) collar (patagia) dark brown; 3) apices of forewings more obtuse; 4) termen more convex; 5) hindwings more elongate; 6) median fascia on their underside rectangular, 7) colour of cilia at apices whitish; 8) much longer first tibial spurs; 9) two subequal dentations of the postmedial line; 10) base of hindwings on the underside black, with no white spots and fasciae; etc., etc.

From *C. judith* Streck. var. *miranda* Hy. Edw.³⁾ my species differs in having — 1) markings on forewings obsolete; 2) cilia gray; 3) no white fasciae on the underside; etc.

It is needless to enumerate the distinctive characters of *C. orba* from other blackwinged forms of nearctic fauna.

The discription is made, and figure photographed, from a male specimen taken in Texas, U. S. A. (without detailed indication of locality), and received from Mr. W. Neuburger in Berlin. I am very indebted to my esteemed entomological friend Mr. Oscar John in St. Petersburg, who has put this specimen at my disposal. Now it is preserved in my collection.

Final determination of the exact position of *C. orba* in the genus can not be made till much more is known than at present. I have already had the occasion⁴⁾ to give my opinion of the modern classification of the genus in general, and of the unnatural erection of the „blackwinged“ group of species in particular. I am inclined to believe that many species in the genus want careful revision.

marks, followed by white, very distinct. Thorax like forewings, with mixed black scales on the collar and tegulae. Hindwings black with blackish fringes. Abdomen above with a blackish shade. Beneath, the body parts are white; second joint of palpi black. The wings are white at base, with narrow pale interspaces between the bands, and resemble generally the other species. Expanse 45 to 50 mm.“

³⁾ The original description of *C. miranda* by Hy. Edwards (Papilio, I, 1881, p. 118) is as follows:

„Allied to *levettei* Grote, and probably confounded with it in collections. It is however smaller, with the primaries of a clearer gray, and with the lines sharper and more distinct. The t. a. line is oblique, and very slightly dentated, reaching the internal margin at a point very near the middle, and almost connected there with the t. p. line which runs into a long tooth on the lower submedian nervule. The reniform is well defined, gray, surrounded by a whitish cloud. Secondaries black, with the fringes clear white, thus presenting a strong point of difference from *C. levettei*. The thorax has the collar brown and well marked. Underside smoky brown with the apices, a submarginal band on the primaries, as well as the fringes of secondaries white. Expanse of wings 1.75 inch.“

⁴⁾ Kusnezov, N. J. Experiments on *C. fraxini* Lin. Revue Russe d'Entom., I, 1901, pp. 225—230.

Kusnezov, N. J. Some remarks on the genus *Catocala* in the Catalogue by Staudinger and Rebel, 1901. Revue Russe d'Entom., III, 1903, pp. 71—76.