

## THREE NEW MOTHS FROM THE SOUTHWEST

BY CHAS. A. HILL, Glendale, Calif.

### I. Family Notodontidæ *Bombycia verdugoensis* sp. nov.

Collar tinged with rufous basally; with black interline, sometimes obsolescent, sometimes doubled. Thorax and primaries blackish gray, tinged with rufous, and irrorated with black. Basal line obsolescent. T. A. line black, double, with mesad part obsolescent, distally jet black, wavy; included space tinged with some rufous; median line blackish; obsolescent, nearly parallel to T. P. line; ordinary spots obsolescent; T. P. line doubled, its mesad part jet black, nearly erect from costa to vein 3, thence bent inward as a "V" again inwardly oblique below vein 1; distal part of T. P. line blackish, more or less obsolescent, widely separated from mesad part, nearly erect from costa to inner margin, included space tinged with some rufous; an oblique black apical dash connected to a pale wavy S. P. line; a thin black terminal line; fringe fuscous gray interlined darker. Hind wing fuscous. Beneath dull fuscous with all maculation obsolescent or obsolete.

Expanse 32-34 mm.

Described from 6 ♂♂.

Taken in Verdugo Woodlands, Glendale, California, March 9 to 15, 1925, at light by the author. Holotype ♂ in coll. Wm. Barnes 2 ♂ paratypes in coll. Barnes 3 ♂ paratypes in coll. Chas. A. Hill.

An interesting species with no closely related organism described from Boreal America. The Tentamen generic name *Bombycia* is used here for *Cymatophora* of Lists. This species may require a separate genus. Superficially the resemblance is close to some of the European species.

Mr. Dunkenfield-Jones, of Glendale, captured five specimens of this species in March, 1926.

### II. Family Noctnidæ *Lascionycta benjamini* sp. nov.

♂ antennae heavily serrated, practically pectinate, frons bulging but not roughened, eyes small but round, strongly lashed as well as hairy. Head and thorax gray, mottled with white and black. Fore wing dull gray, powdered with violaceous white and black, and tinged with ferruginous. Basal line obsolete, T. A. line obsolete; clariform defined by black; orbicular and reniform rather poorly defined, with fuscous centers, pale ringed, and blackish surrounding scales, the former irregular and oblique, the latter more or less crescent shaped; T. P. line obsolescent, produced to points on the veins; S. T. line obsolescent, inwardly defined by a band of black dashes; a thin black terminal line; fringe checkered and also interlined. Hind wings dull whitish luteous, obscured by fuscous which is darkest on veins as a discal spot and a median line, and as a broad out band. Fringe luteous basally, with fuscous interline distally white. Beneath white tinged with luteous and powdered with black and gray, the veins tending to be darkened, both wings crossed by a common line with discal spots and with broad dark outer banding. A strong black bar tends to connect the discal spot of the hind wing with the base.

Expanse 31-32 mm.

Described from 7 ♂♂ taken in Inyo Co., California, at light 18-20th July, 1922, by the author on a trip with Mr. A. C. Poling. The holotype taken at Mammoth, Inyo Co., California, 8,500 feet elevation, is deposited in coll. Wm. Barnes, paratypes in coll. Chas. A. Hill and Wm. Barnes.

This is also an interesting species in that it differs considerably from any other which has been described.

It is tentatively placed in *Lasionycta* because of its strongly lashed eyes. It seems to be a connecting link between that genus and "Polia" of Hampson. The small eyes are not unlike those of some "Aurata." Hampson's figure of "Aurata" or *Scotogramma* discolor shows either the same or a very similar species. It was not made from the type of discolor which has heretofore been known only by the unique type in the U. S. National Museum. A copy of a photograph of this is before me. Hampson's determination seems quite incorrect. I have recently found several more specimens of this new species taken with these at the same time and locality.

Named in appreciation for the courtesies shown me on many occasions by Mr. Foster H. Benjamin who kindly determined the three moths described in this paper as being new to science and the privilege of naming these species due to the generosity of Dr. Wm. Barnes, of Decatur, Illinois, who spent four days with me last March and took back home with him these new species with many others for his collection and for determinations, later returned to me.

### III. Family Noctnidæ *Paphia piazzii* sp. nov.

Collar dark, disconcolorous with thorax which is dull gray and concolorous with the primaries. These are scarcely marked save for black t. a. and t. p. lines, the former, rather evenly rounded from costa to vein 1, thence tending to be produced along vein 1, for a short distance and to be connected to inner margin, this latter character being rather prominent in the holotype but rather obsolescent in a paratype; the t. p. line is excurved around cell, incurved from vein and the ordinary spots are obsolescent. Fringe tending to be slightly checkered. Hind wing white suffused with fuscous and crossed by a median line. Beneath: white with some fuscous suffusion, especially on primaries; both wings crossed by a common line; discal dots present but faint.

Expanse 29-31 mm.

Described from 2 ♂ from Brownsville, Texas, taken at light by E. Piazza, the holotype being labeled 4-11-25 and deposited in coll. Barnes; the paratype 2-11-25 in coll. Chas. A. Hill.

This is new to the U. S. and north but "Brownsville" localities are always "suspicious" so that it may have been described from Mexico S. Am. fauna.

Named in honor of our lamented friend whose untimely end robbed us of one of the most indefatigable collectors I have ever known. Mr. Piazza had several more of this, but I have been unable to trace his material since his death, March, 1926, in New York.

