

Some notes on the distribution of *Lithophane lapidea*  
[Hübner, (1803–1808)] in the Alps and a curious Alpine  
specimen of *Autophila ligaminosa amianta* Schawerda, 1919  
(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

By

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**Abstract:** Some notes on the distribution of *Lithophane lapidea* (Hübner, /1803–1808/) in the Alps and a curious Alpine specimen of *Autophila ligaminosa amianta* Schawerda, 1919 (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). - New and interesting distribution data of *Lithophane lapidea* Hübner and *Autophila ligaminosa amianta* Schawerda from the Alps.

During revisional work on the rearranged Noctuidae collection of the Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum Innsbruck new data on the distribution of *Lithophane lapidea* Hübner and a curious Alpine specimen of *Autophila ligaminosa amianta* Schawerda were found.

The closely related *Cupressus*-feeding twin species *Lithophane (Prolitha) lapidea* Hübner and *Lithophane (Prolitha) leautieri* (Boisduval, 1829) were studied by BOURSIN (1957, 1971). He recognized these two taxa as different species, described several subspecies and figures all known taxa. He considered *lapidea* and *leautieri* as a vicariant species-pair but with the note of a "surprising occurrence" of *lapidea* at Genova (BOURSIN, 1971; BERIO, 1985). Unfortunately some later authors overlooked or did not believe in this fact. Therefore *lapidea* is not mentioned in the newer French checklists (DUFAY, 1975; LERAUT, 1980) as this species has never been mentioned from France although the possibility of a sympatric occurrence in Liguria and the French Riviera could have been possible.

The male genitalia of *lapidea* and *leautieri* exhibit some good and constantly different characters, f.i. the shape of the uncus, the fultura inferior, the cucullus (see BERIO, 1985: 821, fig. 301 for *lapidea* and idem: 824, fig. 302 for *leautieri*) and the quite different aedeagus.

To get an idea on the distribution of *lapidea* we will have to check the available material of *leautieri* especially in the southern parts of the Alps, France and Spain. According to BERIO, *lapidea* is distributed in Italy, the Balkans, Asia Minor and Turkestan. In Southern France and Liguria *lapidea* and *leautieri* seem to be sympatric.

Examined material of *lapidea*: 1 ♂, "Gallia mer., 11.10.", coll. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum Innsbruck, Slide No. N 983 DOBLER; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, "Gallia m.", coll. E. FRIVALDSZKY in coll. Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Slide No. 1364 RONKAY.

*Autophila ligaminosa* (Eversmann, 1843) is one of the most widespread species of the genus. Its range extends from the Adriatic coast to Afghanistan. The westernmost subspecies *amianta* Schawerda, 1919 occurs in Dalmatia. This race has a very characteristic colouration: a light ochreous brown in pastel shade with very fine pinky shine. The specimens are relatively large and resemble somehow pale forms of *Autophila anaphanes* Boursin, 1940. The subspecies *amianta* can be separated easily from other subspecies of *ligaminosa*.

Surprisingly, a typical specimen of this taxon was collected by KITT in Seefeld in Northern

Tyrol (Austria) (coll. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck). As the labelling of the mentioned collector proved to be correct we have no doubt that this specimen was really collected in Seefeld. It is difficult to decide how this specimen could have come to that locality. Autophila species use to rest in caves, holes and buildings. Therefore it seems possible that this specimen was transported by train or truck which was used as a resting place from Dalmatia to Tyrol. There is no doubt that ligaminosa does not occur in Tyrol and that this specimen is introduced. Another possibility could be wind transportation by a heavy storm from the Southeast. The authors intend more to the first version as a possible explanation.

Nevertheless, this is the first specimen from Central Europe and Austria.

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