

ANTONIO DURANTE, LUIGI POTENZA, GABRIELE PELLEGRINO

Natural History Museum of the Salento, S.P. Calimera-Borgagne, Km 1, 73021 Calimera, Italy  
e-mail: antonio.durante@msns.it

## **ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL LIST OF THE PYRAUSTINAE AND SPILOMELINAE (LEPIDOPTERA, PYRALOIDEA, CRAMBIDAE) OF THE SALENTO PENINSULA (SOUTHERN ITALY)**

### **RIASSUNTO**

La fauna entomologica della Penisola Salentina (Sud Italia) risulta essere scarsamente indagata, come affermato in DURANTE e PANZERA (2004) e ribadito in diversi lavori (es., DURANTE e POTENZA, 2016). Per quanto riguarda i lepidotteri, poche sono le ricerche strutturate fino ad ora effettuate, per cui esiste un profondo *gap* conoscitivo in tal senso. In particolare considerando i cosiddetti microlepidotteri i dati per il territorio salentino sono veramente pochissimi. L'unica famiglia che è stata trattata in maniera abbastanza esaustiva è quella degli Pterophoridae da DURANTE e PANZERA (2004). Il presente lavoro, dunque, rappresenta il secondo tentativo di fornire delle informazioni più complete circa la ricca fauna microlepidotterologica della penisola.

Di seguito vengono trattate solo le sottofamiglie Pyraustinae e Spilomelinae, ma altre sottofamiglie di Crambidae sono meritevoli di successivi contributi.

I risultati di questo lavoro evidenziano la presenza di 22 specie della famiglia Crambidae (superfamiglia Pyraloidea), di cui 10 relative alla sottofamiglia Pyraustinae e 12 relative alla sottofamiglia Spilomelinae. Inoltre delle 22 specie di Pyraustinae e Spilomelinae rinvenute, 2 risultano essere di nuova segnalazione per l'Italia, 1 per l'Italia centrale e meridionale, 8 per l'Italia meridionale, 4 per la Puglia, 4 per il Salento e 3 erano già state segnalate nel territorio salentino.

I risultati esposti in questo lavoro, oltre a contribuire in maniera significativa all'incremento della conoscenza della fauna dei Pyraloidea, lasciano intravedere quali possano essere gli sviluppi di ricerche faunistiche più strutturate e organiche (SCALERCIO, 2016) e la potenziale biodiversità esistente in aree tanto diversificate come quelle dell'Italia meridionale, della Puglia e della Penisola Salentina.

## SUMMARY

As pointed out in DURANTE and PANZERA (2004) and various other works (e.g. DURANTE and POTENZA, 2016), the entomological fauna of the Salento Peninsula (Southern Italy) has not been extensively investigated. Regarding the Lepidoptera, little structured researches have been carried out to date, and there is thus a large gap in our knowledge in this area. Considering the so-called microlepidoptera in particular, very few data for the Salento are available. The only family that has been exhaustively studied is that of the Pterophoridae by DURANTE and PANZERA (2004). The present paper thus represents the second attempt to provide more complete information on the Salento microlepidoptera.

This paper addresses only the Pyraustinae and Spilomelinae subfamilies, but other Crambidae subfamilies also merit studies of their own.

The results of this study highlight the presence of 22 species in the family Crambidae (superfamily Pyraloidea), of which 10 belong to the subfamily Pyraustinae and 12 to the subfamily Spilomelinae. In addition, of the 22 species of Pyraustinae and Spilomelinae discovered, 2 are new for Italy as a whole, 1 for peninsular Italy, 8 for S Italy, 4 for Apulia and 4 for the Salento, while only 3 had already been reported for the Salento.

In addition to contributing significantly to our knowledge of Pyraloidea, the results here presented give an idea of future developments in terms of more structured and organic research into this category of fauna (SCALERCIO, 2016) and the potential biodiversity of southern Italy, Puglia and the Salento Peninsula, characterised by a wide variety of habitats.

## INTRODUCTION

As stated in DURANTE and PANZERA (2004) and reiterated in several papers (e.g., DURANTE, 2009; DURANTE and POTENZA, 2016), the entomological fauna of the Salento peninsula has not been extensively studied, and the research that has been conducted has done little to fill the knowledge gap regarding Lepidoptera.

Studies dealing with the Salento include PARENZAN (1979) on Noctuidae, PARENZAN (1994) on Geometridae, DURANTE and PANZERA (2004) on Pterophoridae, DURANTE (2016) on the superfamilies Papilionoidea and Hesperioidea, and DURANTE and PELLEGRINO (2019) on Sphingidae and Saturniidae. Of course, other papers have been published, but very few in relation to the size of the investigated area, and they concern a small number of records. Regarding the so-called microlepidoptera, very few records from the Salento are mentioned (HARTIG, 1940; ZANGHERI, 1955; 1956; 1960; IPPOLITO, 1987),

and only the Pterophoridae family has been dealt with to a degree of completeness. Thus, the present paper is the second attempt to sketch the rich microlepidopteran fauna of the peninsula.

Only the Pyraustinae and Spilomelinae subfamilies are dealt with hereafter, with other subfamilies and Pyralidae to be dealt with in subsequent papers.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The species list is mainly based on the specimens collected by the authors and housed in the MAD and MSNS collections.

Their distribution within Italy is based on the Italian checklist in BASSI *et al.* (1995), updated with reference to general works (LERAUT, 2012; 2014; SLAMKA, 2013) and local papers (see the annotated list in the Results for references).

The geographical definition of the Salento peninsula is the same as in DURANTE (2016), as are the locations where the specimens were gathered.

In this paper we consider S Italy to be the Italian areas S of Lazio, regardless of biogeographical characteristics, following a long and consolidated tradition of works on the fauna of the Italian peninsula. This excludes Abruzzo, as it is on the same latitude as Lazio, although the region is often considered part of S Italy in historical terms, as it lays within the territory of the ancient Kingdom of the two Sicilies.

Specimens were collected by two methods: with a vertical cotton sheet and by means of a light-trap positioned on a white sheet on the ground; in both cases a 250-watt blended-light lamp powered by a portable generator was used. The two methods were often combined in the same collection site, with the vertical sheet facing towards an open area with no obstacles or a wide clearing, and the light trap placed in narrow clearings, dense bush or undergrowth. The collections started at dusk and continued until 11:00 pm in winter and until 2:00 am in summer. In some cases, a light trap was left working all night. In San Donato di Lecce, the trap was allowed to work all night throughout the year, twice a month in winter and four to eight times a month in summer.

The collections were conducted over a period of about thirty years.

The photographic images were obtained by digital camera and processed using Photoshop CC2015. Genitalia dissection followed standard methods, with hot maceration in 10% sodium hydroxide solution: abdomens, entirely removed from the metathorax, were left in the solution for 5 to 15 minutes depending on size. For cleaning and dissection of male and female genitalia, vesica eversion and slide preparation, various authors were consulted (e.g. HARDWICK, 1950; BIRKET-SMITH, 1959; DANG, 1993; WINTER, 2000).

## ABBREVIATIONS

**MAD** acronym of the first author

**MSNS** Museo di Storia naturale del Salento (Natural History Museum of the Salento), Italy

Museum acronym follows EVENHUIS (2021).

## RESULTS

The collection of moths conducted in the Salento Peninsula over a thirty-year period highlighted the presence of 22 species belonging to the family Crambidae (superfamily Pyraloidea), of which 10 belong to the subfamily Pyraustinae and 12 to the subfamily Spilomelinae.

In addition, of the 22 species of Pyraustinae and Spilomelinae discovered, 2 are new for Italy as a whole, 1 for peninsular Italy, 8 for S Italy, 4 for Apulia and 4 for the Salento, while 3 had already been reported for the Salento (Table A).

Table A. Species reported.

Reports	Number of Species	Species
New report for Italy	2	<i>Dolicharthria stigmosalis</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848) <i>Metasia rosealis</i> Ragonot, 1895
New report for peninsular Italy	1	<i>Hodebertia testalis</i> (Fabricius, 1794)
New report for S Italy	8	<i>Loxostege sticticalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1761) <i>Pyrausta castalis</i> Treitschke, 1829 <i>Pyrausta despicata</i> (Scopoli, 1763) <i>Uresiphita gilvata</i> (Fabricius, 1794) <i>Sitochroa palealis</i> ([Denis and Schiffermüller], 1775) <i>Udea ferrugalis</i> (Hübner, 1796) <i>Pleuroptya balteata</i> (Fabricius, 1798) <i>Diasemiopsis ramburialis</i> (Duponchel, 1833)
New report for Apulia	4	<i>Udea numeralis</i> (Hübner, 1796) <i>Antigastra catalaunalis</i> (Duponchel, 1833) <i>Palpita vitrealis</i> (Rossi, 1794) <i>Anania testacealis</i> (Zeller, 1847)
New report for the Salento	4	<i>Pyrausta sanguinalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Pyrausta aurata</i> (Scopoli, 1763) <i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i> (Hübner, 1796) <i>Metasia corsicalis</i> (Duponchel, 1833)
Reports of species previously cited for the Salento	3	<i>Euclasta splendidalis</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848) <i>Metasia carnealis</i> (Treitschke, 1829) <i>Nomophila noctuella</i> ([Denis and Schiffermüller], 1775)
Total number of species reported	22	

## SPECIES ACCOUNT

**SUPERFAMILY: PYRALOIDEA Latreille, 1802**

**FAMILY: CRAMBIDAE Latreille, 1810**

**SUBFAMILY: PYRAUSTINAE Meyrick, 1890**

***Loxostege sticticalis* (Linnaeus, 1761)**

Material: 2 specimens from Otranto, Laghi Alimini (LE), 25/8/1989; 1 from Muro Leccese (LE), 5/10/1994; 1 from Torre Specchia (LE), 21/7/1995.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995).

First record for S Italy (LERAUT, 2012 reports this species for Italy as a whole but he does not cite the source).

***Pyrausta castalis* Treitschke, 1829**

Material: 1 specimen from San Donato (LE), 17/8/1999; 1 from San Donato (LE), 10/9/2002.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995) and Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016).

First record for Southern Italy (both LERAUT, 2012 and SLAMKA, 2013 report this species for peninsular Italy without citing the source).

***Pyrausta sanguinalis* (Linnaeus, 1767)**

Material: 4 specimens from Torre Specchia (LE), 2 collected on 8/7/1994, 1 on 31/8/1994, and 1 on 21/7/1995; 2 from San Cataldo (LE), 19/7/1993, 2/7/1995; 2 from Calimera (LE), 11/6/2015; 1 from Leuca (LE), 28/7/1991; 3 from San Donato (LE), 29/4/2003, 4/5/2007, 8/9/1994; 1 from San Cesario (LE), 18/7/1989; 1 from Cavallino (LE), 5/4/1990.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1955; 1956) reported it for the Gargano promontory, N Apulia.

First record for the Salento.

***Pyrausta despicata* (Scopoli, 1763)**

Material: 7 specimens from San Cataldo (LE), 9/9/1994, 10/9/1994, 3 on 21/9/1994, 24/9/1994, 7/10/1994; 1 from Veglie, Mass. Serra D'Angeli (LE), 24/8/1994.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995).

First record for S Italy (both LERAUT, 2012 and SLAMKA, 2013 report this species for peninsular Italy without citing the source).

***Pyrausta aurata* (Scopoli, 1763)**

Material: 1 specimen from Muro Leccese (LE), 26/08/1992; 1 from Torre Specchia (LE), 21/7/1995; 1 from San Cesario (LE), 10/10/1989; 1 from Calimera (LE), 7/7/2016; 1 from Cavallino (LE), 23/6/1989.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1956) reported it for the Gargano, N Apulia.

First record for the Salento.

***Uresiphita gilvata* (Fabricius, 1794)**

Material: 3 specimens from San Donato (LE), 26/4/2001, 7/5/2003, 13/9/2009; 1 from San Cataldo (LE), 5/7/1991; 1 from Torre Specchia (LE), 31/8/1994.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995).

First record for S Italy (both LERAUT, 2012 and SLAMKA, 2013 report this species for peninsular Italy without citing the source).

***Sitochroa palealis* ([Denis and Schiffermüller], 1775)**

Material: 3 specimens from Cavallino (LE), 20/6/1989, 21/6/1989, 28/6/1990; 1 from San Cesario (LE), 27/5/1991.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995).

First record for S Italy (both LERAUT, 2012 and SLAMKA, 2013 report this species for peninsular Italy without citing the source).

***Euclasta splendidalis* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848)**

Material: 1 specimen from Mass. "Le Cesine", Vernole (LE), 14/7/2000.

This species was recently recorded as new for Italy by ZILLI and PAVESI (2015) based on a report from San Cataldo (LE). Our finding from a location about 10 Km further S confirms their record.

***Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hübner, 1796)**

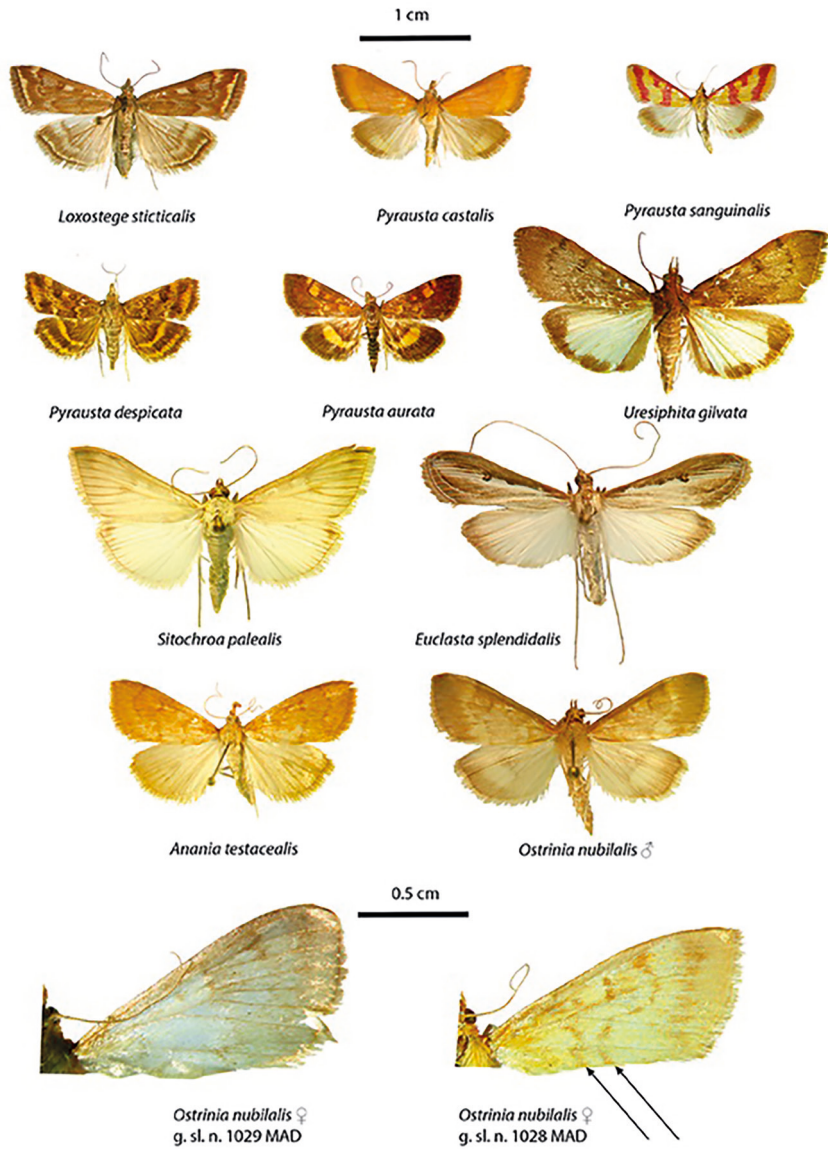
Material: 1 ♂ Torre Specchia (LE), 21/7/1995; 1 ♂ from San Donato (LE), 21/8/2003; 1 ♀ Torre Specchia (LE), 31/8/1994, g. sl. n. 1029 MAD.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016), S Italy (ZANGHERI, 1960), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1956) reported it for the Gargano, N Apulia.

First record for the Salento.

Remarks: a fourth specimen (♀, g. sl. n. 1028 MAD) somewhat diverges from the other three (two ♂♂ and the ♀ g. sl. n. 1029 MAD) and from the genitalia figured in literature, we provide the images of the forewings in Tab. 1, and

Table 1.



the images of the male and female genitalia in the Tab. 3. We note that it presents a very sinuous postmedian band, the most proximal part of which (arrows in Tab. 1) is very close to the antemedian band (both characters differ from the other three specimens, and from the typical *nubilalis* figured in the literature, considering, however, that the type specimen is lost, as stated by MUTUURA and MUNROE, 1970: 38). The genitalia also differ from images in the literature (MUTUURA and MUNROE, 1970; SLAMKA, 2013), specifically in the morphology of the VIII sternum; a corpus to ductus ratio of 0.52 (in *nubilalis* figured in this paper, and by SLAMKA (2013), it is 0.8); the spherical corpus (oval in *nubilalis*); a longer ductus of the membranous accessory sac of the bursa than in *nubilalis*; a signum twice as long as wide (three times as long as wide in *nubilalis*). However, no taxonomic decision can be taken due to the scarcity of material and because the range of variability in the female genitalia is not yet clearly understood.

The Salento *nubilalis* population is not revised here *sensu* FROLOV *et al.* (2007), as its feeding behaviour is not known.

#### ***Anania testacealis* (Zeller, 1847)**

Material: 1 specimen from San Donato (LE), 6/5/2007; 1 from San Cataldo (LE), 24/5/1991.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995; ZILLI and PAVESI, 2015), Central Italy (ZILLI and PAVESI, 2015; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), S Italy (Calabria, SCALERCIO, 2016), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995; ZILLI and PAVESI, 2015).

First record for Apulia (LERAUT, 2012 reports this species for Italy as a whole without citing the source).

### **SUBFAMILY SPILOMELINAE Guenée, 1854**

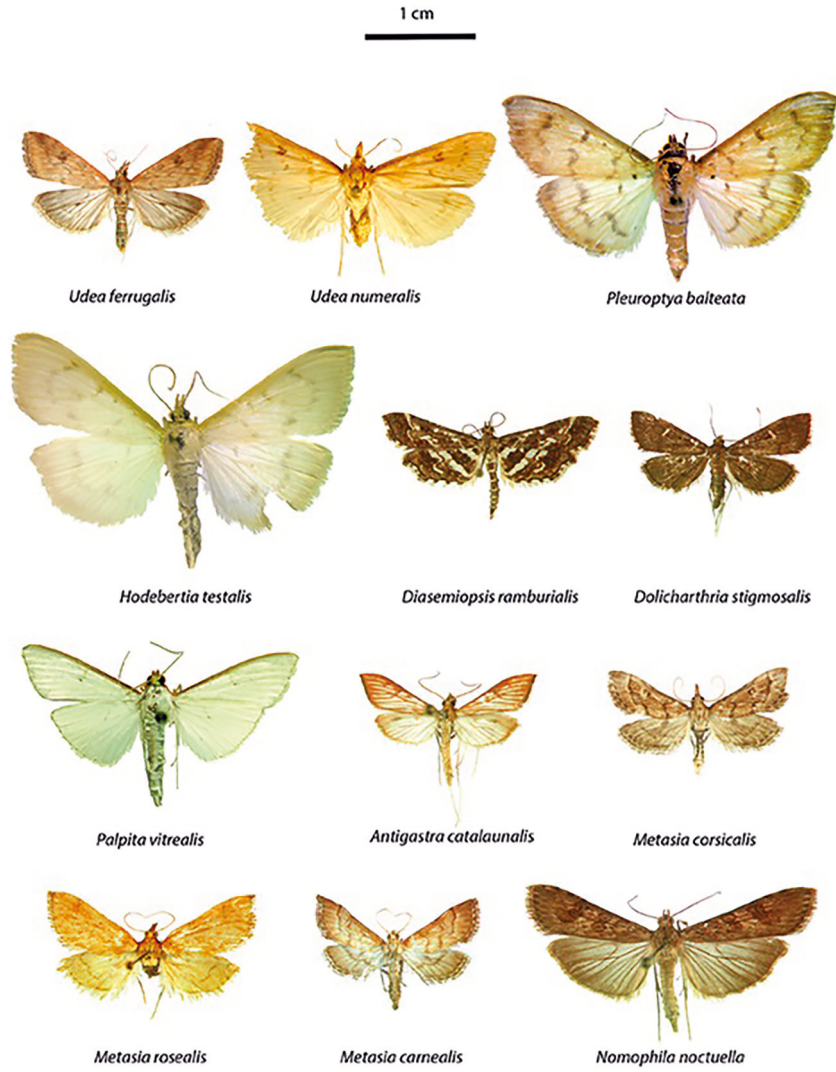
#### ***Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner, 1796)**

Material: 1 specimen from San Donato (LE), 15/4/2007; 5 from San Cesario (LE), 1/10/1989, 2/10/1989, 19/9/1989, 20/10/1989, 29/10/1994; 5 from Muro Leccese (LE), 4 on 26/8/1992, 1 on 5/10/1994; 8 from San Cataldo (LE) 3 on 9/3/1991, 11/5/1991, 13/8/1993, 1/10/1994, 2 on 8/12/1990; 2 from Torre Specchia (LE), 20/8/2003, 31/8/1994; 1 from Calimera (LE), 11/11/2016. Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (HARTIG, 1940; PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995).

First record for S Italy (both LERAUT, 2012 and SLAMKA, 2013 report this species for peninsular Italy without citing the source).



Table 2.



***Udea numeralis* (Hübner, 1796)**

Material: 1 specimen from Taranto, 10/9/1994.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995; SLAMKA, 2013), Central Italy (HARTIG, 1940; SLAMKA, 2013; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1960) reported it for Lucania (Basilicata, S Italy).

First record for Apulia (LERAUT, 2012 reports this species for peninsular Italy without citing the source).

***Pleuroptya balteata* (Fabricius, 1798)**

Material: 1 specimen from Torre Specchia (LE), 21/7/1995.

Species recorded for N Italy, Central Italy and Sicily (BASSI *et al.*, 1995; LERAUT, 2012; SLAMKA, 2013; ZILLI and PAVESI, 2015).

First record for S Italy (LERAUT, 2012 reports this species for peninsular Italy but he does not cite the source).

Remarks: although the genus *Pleuroptya* Meyrick, 1890 could be considered to be synonymous with *Patania* Moore, 1888 (KIRTI and GILL, 2007), it is maintained herein following SLAMKA (2013).

***Hodebertia testalis* (Fabricius, 1794)**

Material: 1 specimen from San Cesario (LE), 31/10/1994.

Species recorded for N Italy and Sicily (BASSI *et al.*, 1995; LERAUT, 2012; SLAMKA, 2013).

First record for peninsular Italy (LERAUT, 2012 reports this species for peninsular Italy and Sicily but he does not cite the source).

***Diasemiopsis ramburialis* (Duponchel, 1833)**

Material: 11 specimens from Mass. Serra D'Angeli, Veglie (LE), 17/10/1994; 2 from San Cataldo (LE), 15/10/1994; 1 from Muro Leccese (LE), 5/10/1994; 1 from Torre Specchia (LE), 19/8/1994, 5 from San Donato (LE), 2 on 1/9/2008, and 3 on 13/9/2009.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995) and Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017).

First record for S Italy (both LERAUT, 2012 and SLAMKA, 2013 report this species for Italy as a whole, without citing the source).

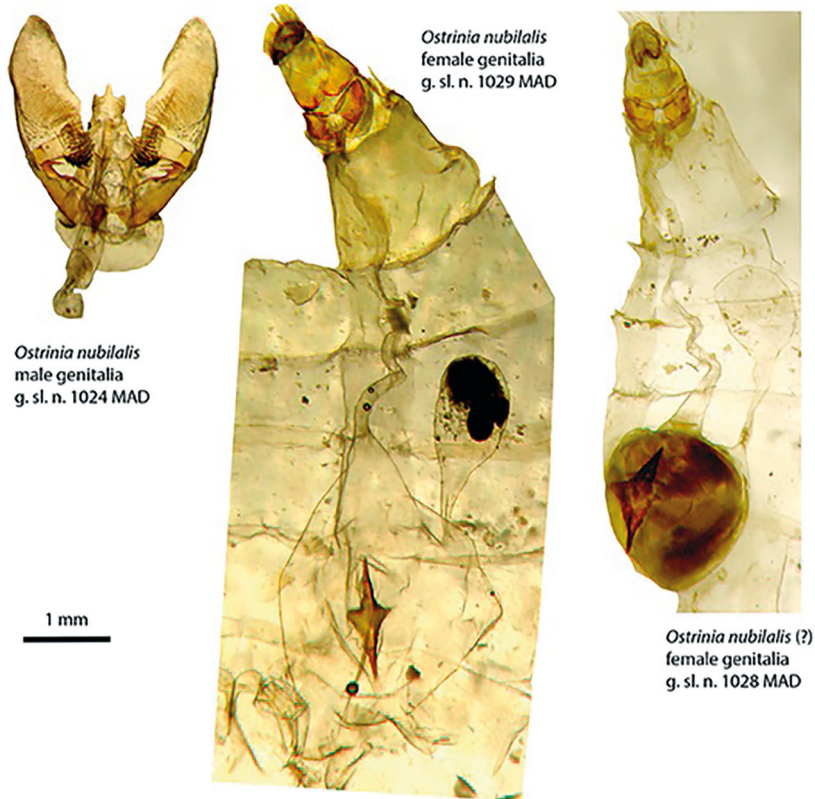
***Dolicharthria stigmosalis* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848)**

Material: 1 ♀ from Calimera (LE), 11/5/2015

According to SLAMKA (2013) this species has a Ponto-Central-Asian distribution, and until now has not been recorded for W Europe (W limit being Austria). However, LENDEL (2018) adds France, considered by SLAMKA (2013) to be a mistake; as a source, LENDEL (2018: 69) provides "Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia", which in turn refers to <https://fauna-eu.org/t/>, where the distribution is based on records older than those of SLAMKA (2013).

This is the first record for Italy.

Table 3.



***Antigastra catalaunalis* (Duponchel, 1833)**

Material: 8 specimens from Torre Specchia (LE), 2 on 19/08/1994, 2 on 29/08/1994, 4 on 31/08/1994; 2 from San Cataldo (LE), 13/5/1991, 1/10/1994; 1 from Muro Leccese (LE), 5/10/1994.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1960) reported it for Lucania (Basilicata, S Italy).

First record for Apulia.

***Palpita vitrealis* (Rossi, 1794)**

Material: 7 specimens from Muro Leccese (LE), 1 on 26/8/1992, 4 on 5/10/1994, 2 on 19/10/1994; 10 from San Cataldo (LE), 3 on 13/5/1994, 4/7/1991, 15/7/1991, 23/7/1993, 2/8/1992, 13/8/1993, 21/9/1994, 24/9/1994; 1 from San Cesario (LE), 9/9/1989; 2 from Torre Specchia (LE), 20/8/1993; 7 from Calimera

(LE), 12/3/2013, 5/6/2015, 19/08/2015, 20/08/2015, 3 on 7-9/9/2016; 1 from San Donato (LE, 2/6/2007; 1 from Torre Vado (LE), 27/7/1991; 5 from Zollino (LE), 2 on 16/6/2013, 2 on 24/6/2013, 12/7/2013.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (MOSCONI *et al.*, 2014; PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016; PINZARI *et al.*, 2017), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1960) reported it for Lucania (Basilicata, S Italy).

First record for Apulia.

***Metasia corsicalis* (Duponchel, 1833)**

Material: 1 specimen from Torre Specchia (LE), 8/7/1994.

Species recorded for N Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995), Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2016), Sicily and Sardinia (BASSI *et al.*, 1995). ZANGHERI (1956) reported it for the Gargano, N Apulia.

First record for the Salento.

***Metasia rosealis* Ragonot, 1895**

Material: 1 ♀ from Mass. Serra D'Angeli, Veglie, 24/8/1994.

Species reported for Anatolia (Turkey) and the Balkans by SLAMKA (2013), the nearest location to the Salento being in Southern Croatia (ZERNY, 1920). However, the site [https://lepiforum.org/wiki/page/Metasia\\_rosealis](https://lepiforum.org/wiki/page/Metasia_rosealis) reports a recent record from the Gargano (N Apulia) that is believed to be the first for Italy. Our find is the second for Italy and the first for the Salento.

***Metasia carnealis* (Treitschke, 1829)**

Material: 1 ♂ from San Cataldo (LE), 19/7/1993.

Species recorded for N Italy, Sicily (BASSI *et al.*, 1995) and Central Italy (PINZARI *et al.*, 2010; SLAMKA, 2013; ZILLI *et al.*, 2014; PINZARI *et al.*, 2016). ZANGHERI (1960) reported it for the Salento (Otranto - LE).

***Nomophila noctuella* ([Denis and Schiffermüller], 1775)**

Material: 12 specimens from San Cataldo (LE), 9/3/1991, 2 on 18/4/1991, 20/4/1991, 13/5/1991, 25/7/1990, 1/10/1994, 4 on 6/11/1994, 13/11/1994; 5 from San Donato (LE), 2 on 26/4/2001, 10/5/2004, 9/6/2003, 8/9/1994; 12 from Calimera (LE), 9/3/2013, 20/5/2015, 20/8/2015, 9 on 7-9/9/2016; 4 from Mass. Serra D'Angeli, Veglie (LE), 24/8/1994; 4 from Torre Specchia (LE), 20/8/1993, 29/8/1994, 2 on 31/8/1994; 2 from Leuca (LE), 28/07/1991, 4 from Muro Leccese (LE), 5/10/1994, 1 from Torre dell'Orso (LE), 21/9/2012.

Species reported for the whole of Italy (BASSI *et al.*, 1995; LERAUT, 2012; SLAMKA, 2013); already recorded for the Salento (ZANGHERI, 1960).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

*Dolicharthria stigmosalis* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848) and *Metasia rosealis* Ragonot, 1895 are mainly reported for the Balkans (ZERNY, 1920; SLAMKA, 2013), and their discovery in the Salento thus suggests that we are dealing with a species with a trans-Adriatic and trans-Ionian distribution. This confirms the biogeographical affinity of Apulia and the Salento Peninsula with the Balkans (see ZANGHERI, 1960: 25).

Despite the economic importance of Pyraloidea and its wealth of species, knowledge for Italy in general and the South in particular is extremely limited (SCALERCIO, 2016).

This paper presents some important news regarding Italian fauna, contributing significantly to our knowledge of Pyraloidea in the southern regions, obviously having the Salento Peninsula as a point of reference.

The results set out in this paper, based on collections that were not constant but were conducted over a long period, give an idea of future developments in terms of more structured and organic research into this taxon (SCALERCIO, 2016) and the potential biodiversity of S Italy, Apulia and the Salento Peninsula, characterised by a wide variety of habitats.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present paper is the second devoted to microlepidoptera (the first being DURANTE and PANZERA, 2004), and hopefully the first of a series dedicated to the Pyraloidea: for this the authors are indebted to various authors and friends, including Piero Carlino and Sandro Panzera (MSNS).

The authors also wish to thank Graziano Bassi (Avigliana, Italy) for his valuable comments on the manuscript.

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