

Antigastra catalaunalis, a new species for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)

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Samenvatting. *Antigastra catalaunalis*, een nieuwe soort voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)

Verskillende exemplaren *Antigastra catalaunalis* (Duponchel, 1833) werden in de loop van 2006 op diverse plaatsen in België waargenomen. Het is het eerste jaar dat deze zeldzame migrant in België wordt opgemerkt.

Résumé. *Antigastra catalaunalis*, une espèce nouvelle pour la faune belge (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)

Plusieurs exemplaires de *Antigastra catalaunalis* (Duponchel, 1833) furent observées en 2006 dans plusieurs localités en Belgique. C'est la première fois que cette espèce migratrice est observée en Belgique.

Key words: *Antigastra catalaunalis* – Belgium – faunistics – first record.

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On 05 September 2006, 2 specimens of *Antigastra catalaunalis* (Duponchel, 1833) were observed at Veurne (Province of West-Vlaanderen), leg. D. D'Hert. As far as we know, these represent the first sightings of this rare migrant in Belgium. A third specimen was seen in the same locality on 07 September and another one by the second author at Oostmalle (Province of Antwerpen) on 13 September. At the same locality, another individual was caught on 24 September, leg. M. Jacobs. On 16 September, a specimen was seen at Olloy-sur-Viroin (Province of Namur), leg. C. Steeman, followed by a specimen in the nature reserve "Stamprooiersbroek" at Kinrooi (Province of Limburg) on 22 September, leg. M. Jacobs, a specimen at Averbode (Province of Brabant) on 23 September, leg. W. Veraghtert, and a specimen at Rosières (Province of Brabant) on 29 September, leg. P. Fontaine.



Figs. 1–3. *Antigastra catalaunalis* (Duponchel, 1833), 1–2. Belgium, Limburg, Kinrooi, Natuurreservaat Stamprooiersbroek, 22.ix.2006, leg. M. Jacobs; 3.– Belgium, Namur, Olloy-sur-Viroin, 16.ix.2006, leg. C. Steeman (Photo 1–2 M. Jacobs, photo 3 C. Steeman).

For a crambid moth, *A. catalaunalis* has rather pointed forewings. Ground colour yellowish suffused ferruginous on veins and margins. It looks a little like *Nascia cilialis* (Hübner, 1796) but the forewings are more narrow and the ground colour is paler.

A. catalaunalis is a tropical species extending into southern Europe. It occurs on almost all Mediterranean and East-Atlantic islands: Balearic Islands, Canary Islands, Corsica, Madeira, Malta, Sardinia, and Sicily. Nuss *et al.* (2005) list following countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Switzerland. In most of the Central European countries listed above, *A. catalaunalis* occurs only as a rare or very rare migrant. It becomes more common further south and can be quite abundant in the tropics. It has been imported in many tropical countries and occurs nowadays worldwide in a.o. Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Iran, and Japan.

The species has also been observed in the Netherlands in 2006: 1 specimen at Retranchement on 18 September, leg. A. Allemekinders, and 1 specimen at Kruiningen (both Province of Zeeland) on 27 September, leg. F. van Lamoen. Also in the UK, where *A. catalaunalis* is listed as a very scarce migrant, occurring only in the southern counties (Goater 1986: 89), some observations during September 2006 became known.

A huge population density in its natural area and favourable warm weather conditions, combined with northward winds have probably caused the migration of many specimens of *A. catalaunalis* in September.

The caterpillar feeds mainly on *Sesamum indicum* (Pedaliaceae), both on young and full-grown plants and can be very destructive.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank D. D'Hert, P. Fontaine, M. Jacobs, and C. Steeman for providing us with information on the observation of this species in Belgium, M. Jacobs and C. Steeman for the permission to use their photographs.

References

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