

NOCTUID MOTHS (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) FROM THE „R. STEPANOV” ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTION PRESERVED IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF CHIȘINĂU

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Abstract. The paper presents the analysis of butterflies from the Noctuidae family (Lepidoptera) preserved in the entomological collection „R. Stepanov” which is in the possession of the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History of the Chișinău. This collection has an indisputable historical and scientific value, being one of the first of its kind in the Republic of Moldova, the specimens stored in its were collected during the years 1907-1978. The 335 noctuid specimens belong to a total of 90 species included in 57 genera and 13 subfamilies: Acontiinae (3 species), Acronictinae (6), Amphyrinae (2), Cuculliinae (2), Eustrotiinae (1), Hadeninae (20), Heliothinae (6), Metoponiinae (2), Noctuinae (11), Oncocnemidinae (1), Plusiinae (5), Psaphidinae (1) and Xyleninae (30 species). The species *Heliothis ononis* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) is a new taxon for the fauna of the Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: Noctuidae, „R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection, new taxon.

Rezumat. Noctuidele (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) din colecția entomologică „R. Stepanov”, păstrată în Muzeul Național de Etnografie și Istorie Naturală din Chișinău. Lucrarea prezintă analiza fluturilor din familia Noctuidae (Lepidoptera) conservate în colecția entomologică „R. Stepanov” care se află în posesia Muzeului Național de Etnografie și Istorie Naturală din Chișinău. Această colecție are o valoare istorică și științifică incontestabilă, fiind una din primele de felul ei în Republica Moldova, speciile stocați în fondul acestuia fiind colectați pe parcursul anilor 1907-1978. Cele 335 exemplare de noctuide aparțin unui număr de 90 specii incluse în 57 genuri și 13 subfamilii: Acontiinae (3 specii), Acronictinae (6), Amphyrinae (2), Cuculliinae (2), Eustrotiinae (1), Hadeninae (20), Heliothinae (6), Metoponiinae (2), Noctuinae (11), Oncocnemidinae (1), Plusiinae (5), Psaphidinae (1) și Xyleninae (30 specii). Specia *Heliothis ononis* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) reprezintă taxon nou pentru fauna Republicii Moldova.

Cuvinte cheie: Noctuidae, colecția entomologică „R. Stepanov”, taxon nou.

INTRODUCTION

The National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, located in Chișinău, Republic of Moldova stores the oldest entomological collections from the country. Of these, the Entomological Collection „N. Zubowsky” is the oldest in the Republic of Moldova, elaborated during 1900-1940 in Bessarabia and having a considerable scientific interest. The “N. Zubowsky” collection includes 10 752 specimens of insects. Data concerning the insects in this collection were published in 2016 in a comprehensive catalogue named “Catalogue of the N. Zubowsky Entomological Collection” (DERJANSCHI et al., 2016).

Besides this entomological collection, the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History hosts another ancient valuable collection of R. Stepanov who was a famous naturalist too. The “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection consists of more than 20,000 insects from the Orthoptera, Lepidoptera and Coleoptera orders, which will be published in the future. The specimens were collected during 1900-1980 from various ecosystems, both anthropogenic and natural from Bessarabia, which represents the current territory of the Republic of Moldova and a few localities that now belong to Ukraine. The “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection is divided into two parts, one is in the possession of the Museum of Ethnography and Natural History and the second part belongs to the Museum of Entomology of the Institute of Zoology. The study of the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection began recently with the publication that presents the geometer moths (Lepidoptera, Geometridae) from the collection (ȚUGULEA et al., 2020). In the present paper, which will be the second related to the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection, noctuid moths, stored in the Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, have been studied.

The Noctuidae are the most controversial family in the superfamily Noctuoidea because many of the clades are constantly changing, along with the other families of the Noctuoidea. It was considered the largest family in Lepidoptera for a long time, but after regrouping Lymantriinae, Catocalinae and Calpinae within the family Erebidae, the latter holds this title now (ZAHIRI et al., 2012). Currently, Noctuidae is the second largest family in Noctuoidea, with about 1,089 genera and 11,772 species (ZHANG, 2011). 425 species of Noctuidae were recorded in the Republic of Moldova, taxonomically belonging to 170 genera and 14 subfamilies (ȚUGULEA, 2020).

The purpose of this paper is to continue the publication of species preserved in the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection for a better understanding of the diversity and the habitat of the insect from Republic of Moldova.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The analysed material is represented by the species of the Noctuidae family preserved in the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection of the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, collected during 1907-1978 years.

The nomenclature and taxonomy of the species used in this work are consistent with the taxonomic system of FIBIGER & HACKER (2005).

For each species, the following data were recorded: the number of specimens, the sites and the collection dates. Collection sites are listed in alphabetical order, and the collection dates, in chronological order of the years and collected moths.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

After analysing the 335 specimens, 90 species were identified, included in 57 genera and 13 subfamilies: Acontiinae (3 species), Acronictinae (6), Amphyrinae (2), Cuculliinae (2), Eustrotiinae (1), Hadeninae (20), Heliothinae (6), Metoponiinae (2), Noctuidae (11), Oncocnemidinae (1), Plusiinae (5), Psaphidinae (1) and Xyleninae (30 species). The distribution of species, genera and specimens in the subfamilies is uneven (Table 1).

Table 1. The numerical spectrum of the analysed Noctuidae family from the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection.

No.	Subfamily	Nr. of genera	Nr. of species	No. of specimens		
				Republic of Moldova	Ukraine	No data
1.	Acontiinae	2	3	7	6	2
2.	Acronictinae	3	6	12	-	3
3.	Amphyrinae	1	2	6	-	2
4.	Cuculliinae	1	2	9	-	-
5.	Eustrotiinae	1	1	2	-	-
6.	Hadeninae	11	20	54	4	6
7.	Heliothinae	3	6	6	-	2
8.	Metoponiinae	2	2	5	2	3
9.	Noctuidae	7	11	71	1	1
10.	Oncocnemidinae	1	1	1	-	-
11.	Plusiinae	5	5	14	-	1
12.	Psaphidinae	1	1	1	-	-
13.	Xyleninae	19	30	107	3	4
Total		57	90	295	16	24

From 335 noctuid specimens stored in the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection, 16 come from Ukraine and 295 from 13 collecting sites from the Republic of Moldova (Table 2). Nothing is known about those 24 remaining specimens, because the labels with the collection date and place are missing.

Table 2. Collection sites list of Noctuidae specimens from the “R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection.

I. Republic of Moldova		9. Grinăuți (Oenița district)	
1. Bender		10. Mălăiești (Orhei district)	
2. Bularda (Călărași district)		11. Pirlîța (Ungheni district)	
3. Chișinău		12. Talmază (Ștefan-Vodă district)	
4. Cornești (Ungheni district)		13. Trebisăuți (Briceni district)	
5. Cricova			
6. Dănceni (Ialoveni district)		II. Ukraine	
7. Durlăști		1. Hotin	
8. Ivancea (Orhei district)		2. Izmail	

In what follows, we present the list of identified species in accordance with the taxonomic systems used by FIBIGER & HACKER (2005).

ORDER LEPIDOPTERA Superfamily Noctuoidea Family Noctuidae

Subfamily Acontiinae Guenée, 1841

1. *Acontia trabealis* (Scopoli, 1763) [In the collection: *Erastria trabealis*]: Chișinău, 25.07.1913, 1 spec., 06.08.1932, 2 specs.; Izmail (Ukraine), 14.06.1911, 1 spec., 15.06.1911, 4 specs.
2. *Acontia lucida* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Tarache lucida*]: Chișinău, 26.06.1916, 1 spec., 29.08.1938, 1 spec.; Ivancea, 1973 May, 1 spec., 09.08.1975, 1 spec.; Izmail (Ukraine), 18.06.1911, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.
3. *Aedia funesta* (Esper, 1766): no data, 1 spec.

Subfamily Acronictinae Heinemann, 1859

4. *Moma alpium* (Osbeck, 1778) [In the collection: *Diphthera alpium*]: Grinăuți, 1914, 1 spec.
5. *Acronicta rumicis* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Acronycta rumicis*]: Chișinău, 09.07, 11.07, 19.08.1914, 3 specs., 26.06.1916, 1 spec., 21.05.1922, 1 spec., 04.08, 02.09, 11.09.1922, 3 specs., 01.07.1938, 1 spec.
6. *Acronicta psi* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Acronycta psi*]: no data, 2 specs.

7. *Acronicta tridens* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Acronycta tridens*]: Chișinău, 02.04.1913, 1 spec.
8. *Acronicta aceris* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Acronycta aceris*]: no data, 1 spec.
9. *Cryphia fraudatricula* (Hübner, 1803) [In the collection: *Bryophila palliola*]: Bender, 09.06.1931, 1 spec.

Subfamily Amphipyridae Guenée, 1837

10. *Amphipyra pyramidea* (Linnaeus, 1758): Chișinău, 08.08.1919, 1 spec.; Pîrlița, 12-13.08.1911, 4 specs.; no data, 1 spec.
11. *Amphipyra livida* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775): Pîrlița, 12-13.08.1911, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.

Subfamily Cuculliinae Herrich-Schäffer, [1850]

12. *Cucullia fraudatrix* Eversmann, 1837: Grinăuți, 1914, 1 spec.
13. *Cucullia umbratica* (Linnaeus, 1758): Chișinău, 18.07.1912, 1 spec., 26.05.1916, 1 spec., 24.05, 18.06.1935, 2 specs.; Cornești [Pereval], 28.07.1935, 1 spec., 18.04.1937, 1 spec.; Durlești, 14.07.1932, 1 spec., 13.08.1934, 1 spec.

Subfamily Eustrotiinae Grote, 1882

14. *Deltote bankiana* (Fabricius, 1775) [In the collection: *Eustrotia alivana*]: Ivancea, 04.07.1973, 2 specs.

Subfamily Hadeninae Guenée, 1837

15. *Anarta dianthi* (Tauscher, 1809) [In the collection: *Mamestra/Hadena perplexa*]: no data, 1 spec.
16. *Anarta trifolii* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Scotogramma trifolii*]: Chișinău, 18.07.1913, 1 spec., 20.07.1916, 1 spec., 21.08.1922, 1 spec.; Izmail (Ukraine), 13.06.1911, 1 spec.; no data, 2 specs.
17. *Conisania luteago* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Harmadia luteago*]: Chișinău, 25.06.1922, 1 spec.; Izmail (Ukraine), 15.06.1911, 3 specs.
18. *Egira conspiciilaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Xylomania conspiciilaris*]: Cricova, 26.04.1936, 1 spec.
19. *Hadena bicruris* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Harmadia biscuris*]: Chișinău, 19.07.1915, 1 spec., 10.05.1916, 1 spec.
20. *Hadena perplexa* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Harmadia lepide*]: Chișinău, 10.07.2016, 1 spec.
21. *Hecatera bicolorata* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Polia serena f. leuconata*]: Chișinău, 23.07.1934, 1 spec., 02.05.1938, 1 spec.
22. *Hecatera dysodea* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Polia spinacia*]: Chișinău, 24.06.1917, 1 spec.
23. *Lacanobia aliena* (Hübner, 1809) [In the collection: *Polia aliena*]: Chișinău, 18.07.1916, 1 spec.
24. *Lacanobia oleracea* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Polia oleraceae*]: Chișinău, 16.04.1914, 1 spec., 20, 21.07.1916, 2 specs., 17.08.1919, 1 spec., 01-17.08.1932, 5 specs.
25. *Lacanobia suasa* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Polia dissimilis*]: Chișinău, 22.07, 13.08.1913, 2 specs., 15.07-18.07.1916, 5 specs., 01.08.1919, 1 spec.; Cornești, 23.07.1933, 1 spec.
26. *Lacanobia w-latinum* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Polia w latinum*]: Chișinău, 02.04.1918, 1 spec.
27. *Mamestra brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Barathra brassicae*]: Chișinău, 23, 24.07.1913, 3 specs., 11.06.1914, 1 spec., 14.07.1916, 1 spec., 12.07.1922, 1 spec.; Talmaza, 04-12.07.1932, 2 specs.
28. *Melanchra persicariae* (Linnaeus, 1761) [In the collection: *Polia persicariae*]: no data, 1 spec.
29. *Mythimna albipuncta* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Hyphylare albipuncta*]: Chișinău, 09.10.1914, 1 spec., 05.08.1923, 3 specs., 07.08, 29.09.1932, 2 specs.
30. *Mythimna l-album* (Linnaeus, 1767) [In the collection: *Hyphylare l-album*]: Chișinău, 24.08.1916, 1 spec., 10.06, 04.07.1917, 2 specs.
31. *Mythimna pallens* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Sideridis pallens*]: Chișinău, 26.08.1932, 1 spec.; Ivancea, 10.10.1968, 1 spec.; Talmaza, 03.08.1932, 1 spec.
32. *Mythimna turca* (Linnaeus, 1761) [In the collection: *Hyperiodes turca*]: Chișinău, 09.08.1916, 1 spec.
33. *Orthosia incerta* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Monima incerta*]: Ivancea, 19.04.1978, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.
34. *Tholera decimalis* (Poda, 1761) [In the collection: *Tholera popularis*]: Ivancea, 04.09.1970, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.

Subfamily Heliothinae Boisduval, 1828

35. **Heliothis ononis* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Chloridea ononides*]: Chișinău, 07.08.1932, 1 spec.
36. *Heliothis viriplaca* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Chloridea dipsacea*]: no data, 1 spec.
37. *Heliothis peltigera* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Chloridea peltigera*]: Chișinău, 16.09.1922, 1 spec.
38. *Pyrrhia purpurina* (Esper, 1804) [In the collection: *Thalpochares purpurina*]: Chișinău, 04.06.1932, 1 spec.
39. *Pyrrhia umbra* (Hufnagel, 1766): Talmaza, 26.08.1932, 1 spec.

40. *Schinia scutosa* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Melicleptria scutosa*]: Bender, 06.07.1907, 1 spec.; Cornești, 28.07.1938, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.

Subfamily Metoponiinae Herrich-Schäffer, 1851

41. *Tyta luctuosa* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Tarache luctuosa*]: Chișinău, 27.05.1912, 1 spec., 05.08.1932, 1 spec.; Mălăiești, 20.07.1924, 1 spec.; Izmail (Ukraine), 14.07.1911, 2 specs.; no data, 2 specs.

42. *Mycteroplus puniceago* (Boisduval, 1840): Chișinău, 13-17.08.1932, 2 specs.; no data, 1 spec.

Subfamily Noctuinae Latreille, 1809

43. *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Agrotis ypsilon*]: Chișinău, 09.10.1914, 1 spec., 29.06.1922, 1 spec., 19.10.1923, 1 spec.

44. *Agrotis segetum* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Agrotis segetis*]: Chișinău, 23.07.1912, 24.06-24.07.1913, 15 specs., 16-18.05, 18.06, 21.07, 04.08, 09.10.1914, 9 specs., 14.07.1915, 1 spec., 10.06, 15.07.1916, 2 specs., 24.07.1917, 1 spec., 09.08.1919, 2 specs., 29.09.1922, 1 spec., 29.08, 01.09, 05.08, 26.08, 09.10.1923, 5 specs.; Grinăuți, 05.05.1916, 2 specs.

45. *Axylia putris* (Linnaeus, 1761) [In the collection: *Rhyacia putris*]: Chișinău, 15.07.1914, 1 spec., 15-18.07.1916, 2 specs., 26.05.1918, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.

46. *Eugnorisma depuncta* (Linnaeus, 1761) [In the collection: *Rhyacia depuncta*]: Chișinău, 01.09.1923, 3 specs.; Durlești, 24.09.1932, 1 spec.

47. *Euxoa nigricans* (Linnaeus, 1761): Chișinău, 14.08.1922, 1 spec., 19.08.1923, 1 spec.

48. *Euxoa tritici* (Linnaeus, 1761): Chișinău, 24.07.1913, 1 spec.

49. *Noctua comes* (Hübner, 1813) [In the collection: *Triphaena comes*]: Chișinău, 01-15.09.1923, 2 specs., 27.07.1932, 1 spec.

50. *Noctua fimbriata* (Schreber, 1759) [In the collection: *Triphaena fimbriata*]: Trebisăuți, 1970 July, 1 spec.; Ivancea, 17.08.1972, 1 spec.

51. *Spaelotis ravida* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Rhyacia/Agrotis obscura*]: Chișinău, 01.06.1924, 2 specs., 01, 09.07.1932, 2 specs.

52. *Xestia c-nigrum* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Rhyacia c-nigrum*]: Chișinău, 18.05, 18.09.1913, 2 specs., 09.10.1914, 2 specs., 17.08.1919, 1 spec., 01.06.1924, 1 spec., 22.08.1932, 1 spec.; Hotin (Ukraine), 03.08.1912, 1 spec.

53. *Xestia stigmatica* (Hübner, 1813) [In the collection: *Rhyacia rhomboidea*]: Chișinău, 19-20.08.1932, 3 specs.

Subfamily Oncocnemidinae Forbes & Franclemont, 1954

54. *Calophasia lunula* (Hufnagel, 1766): Dănceni, 30.10.1937, 1 spec.

Subfamily Psaphidinae Grote, 1896

55. *Allophytes oxyacanthae* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Meganephria oxyacanthae*]: Chișinău, 20.10.1922, 1 spec.

Subfamily Plusiinae Boisduval, 1828

56. *Plusia festucae* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Phytometra festucae*]: Ivancea, 15.07.1970, 1 spec.

57. *Diachrysis chrysitis* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Phytometra chrysitis*]: Ivancea, 31.05.1963, 1 spec., 07.09.1970, 1 spec.

58. *Autographa gamma* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Phytometra gamma*]: Chișinău, 08.07.1922, 1 spec., 05.04.1938, 1 spec.; Ivancea, 07.07.1964, 1 spec.; Bender, 13.07.1932, 1 spec.; Talmaza, 15.07.1932, 1 spec.

59. *Macdunnoughia confusa* (Stephens, 1850) [In the collection: *Phytometra confusa*]: Chișinău, 06.11.1976, 1 spec.; Ivancea, 04.08.1967, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.

60. *Abrostola tripartita* (Hufnagel, 1766): Chișinău, 13.05.1927, 1 spec.; Ivancea, 20.07.1974, 1 spec., 14.07.1975, 1 spec.; Cornești [Pereval], 20.08.1933, 1 spec.

Subfamily Xyleninae Guenée, 1837

61. *Actinotia polyodon* (Clerck, 1759): Chișinău, 11.08.1932, 1 spec.

62. *Agrochola circellaris* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Amathes circellaris*]: Chișinău, 10.10.1923, 1 spec., 09.11.1936, 1 spec.

63. *Agrochola helvola* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Amathes helvola*]: Durlești, 13.10.1935, 1 spec.; Cricova, 30.09.1934, 2 specs.; Dănceni, 1932, 1 spec., 13.10.1935, 2 specs.

64. *Agrochola laevis* (Hübner, 1803) [In the collection: *Amathes laevis*]: Durlești, 02.10.1930, 1 spec., 24.09.1932, 1 spec.; Cricova, 30.09.1934, 8 specs.

65. *Agrochola litura* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Amathes litura*]: Chișinău, 15.10.1923, 1 spec.; Durlești, 24.09.1932, 1 spec.

66. *Agrochola macilenta* (Hübner, 1809) [In the collection: *Amathes macilenta*]: Cricova, 19.09.1937, 1 spec.; Durlești, 24.09.1932, 1 spec.; Chișinău, 02-19.10.1923, 8 specs., 09.11.1936, 1 spec.

67. *Amphipoea fucosa* (Freyer, 1830) [In the collection: *Apamea fucosa*]: Grinăuți, 1914, 3 specs.
68. *Apamea monoglypha* (Hufnagel, 1766) [*Parastichtis monoglypha*]: Chișinău, 20.07.1922, 1 spec., 29-19.06.05.1924, 2 specs., 19.06.1935, 1 spec.
69. *Athetis fuvula* (Hübner, 1808): Chișinău, 11.07.1913, 1 spec., 22.07.1914, 1 spec., 20.07.1916, 1 spec., 11.07.1917, 1 spec., 01.08.1932, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.; Izmail (Ukraine), 14.07.1911, 3 specs.
70. *Athetis gluteosa* (Treitschke, 1835): Chișinău, 16.05.1914, 1 spec., 03.08.1916, 1 spec.
71. *Caradrina clavipalpis* (Scopoli, 1763) [In the collection: *Elaphria clavipalpia*]: Chișinău, 09.10.1914, 2 specs., 24.08.1932, 1 spec.
72. *Caradrina morpheus* (Hufnagel, 1766) [In the collection: *Elaphrina morpheus*]: Chișinău, 07.08.1916, 1 spec., 30.07.1917, 1 spec., 16.08.1932, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.
73. *Caradrina selini* Boisduval, 1840 [In the collection: *Elaphria seleni*]: Chișinău, 24.07.1913, 2 specs., 29.08.1919, 1 spec.
74. *Caradrina kadenii* Freyer, 1836: Chișinău, 12-21.07.1916, 3 specs.
75. *Cirrhia icteritia* (Hufnagel, 1766): [In the collection: *Cosmia fulvago*]: no data, 1 spec.
76. *Conistra vaccinii* (Linnaeus, 1761): Chișinău, 27-28.10.1923, 2 specs., 08.12.1929, 3 specs.; Cricova, 06.10, 09.11.1934, 4 specs.; Bularda, 26.11.1929, 1 spec.; Durlești, 16.03.1930, 3 specs., 11.10.1931, 1 spec., 16.04.1936, 1 spec., 31.10.1938, 2 specs.
77. *Cosmia trapezina* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Calymnia trapezina*]: Bender, 08.08.1935, 1 spec.
78. *Dypterygia scabriuscula* (Linnaeus, 1758): Chișinău, 18.05.1913, 1 spec., 30.07.1914, 1 spec., 27.07.1915, 1 spec., 29.06.1919, 1 spec., 15.05.1924, 1 spec.
79. *Hoplodrina octogenaria* (Goeze, 1781) [In the collection: *Hoplodrina alsines*]: Chișinău, 28.06.1916, 1 spec.
80. *Lithophane ornitopus* (Hufnagel, 1766): Chișinău, 11.03.1922, 1 spec.; Durlești, 16.03.1930, 1 spec.
81. *Mesogona acetosellae* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Mytimna acetosellae*]: Chișinău, 01.08.1933, 1 spec.
82. *Oligia latruncula* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775): Chișinău, 31.05.1916, 1 spec.
83. *Oligia strigilis* (Linnaeus, 1758): Chișinău, 24.05.1914, 1 spec., 26.05-21.06.1916, 7 specs.
84. *Oligia versicolor* (Borkhausen, 1792): Chișinău, 26.05.1916, 1 spec.
85. *Oria musculosa* (Hübner, 1808): Grinăuți, 1914, 1 spec.
86. *Pseudeustrotia candidula* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Eustrotia candidula*]: Chișinău, 20.07.1916, 1 spec.; Ivanca, 04.08.1964, 1 spec.; no data, 1 spec.
87. *Tiliacea citrigo* (Linnaeus, 1758) [In the collection: *Cosmia citrigo*]: Durlești, 24.09.1932, 1 spec.
88. *Tiliacea sulphurago* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) [In the collection: *Cosmia sulphurago*]: Durlești, 24.09.1932, 3 specs.
89. *Trachea atriplicis* (Linnaeus, 1758): Chișinău, 07.08.1915, 1 spec., 27.07.19, 1 spec., 1702.08.1927, 1 spec.; Grinăuți, 1914, 1 spec.
90. *Xanthia togata* (Esper, 1788) [In the collection: *Cosmia lutea*]: Chișinău, 03.09.1932, 1 spec.

The best represented subfamily in terms of numbers is the Xyleninae subfamily, which sums up to 114 specimens of the 335, representing 34% (Fig. 1). It is followed by the Noctuidae subfamily with 73 specimens (22%) and Hadeninae with 64 specimens (19%). The Oncocnemidinae and Psaphidinae subfamily lists only one specimen.

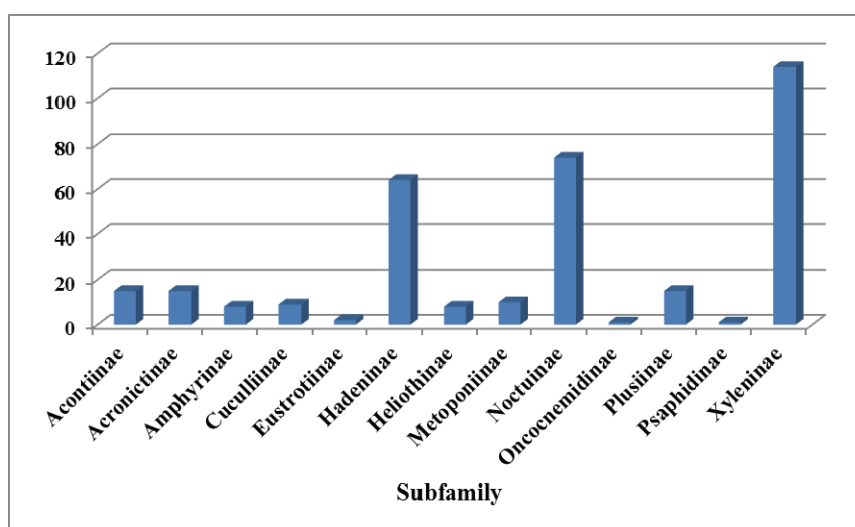


Figure 1. The numerical spectrum of the analysed specimens of noctuid moths from „R. Stepanov” Entomological Collection.

Regarding the distribution of species in the subfamilies, the Xyleninae, Hadeninae and Noctuidae subfamilies still include most species – 30, 20 and 11, respectively. The Eustrotiinae, Oncocnemidinae and Psaphidinae subfamilies include only one species (Fig. 2).

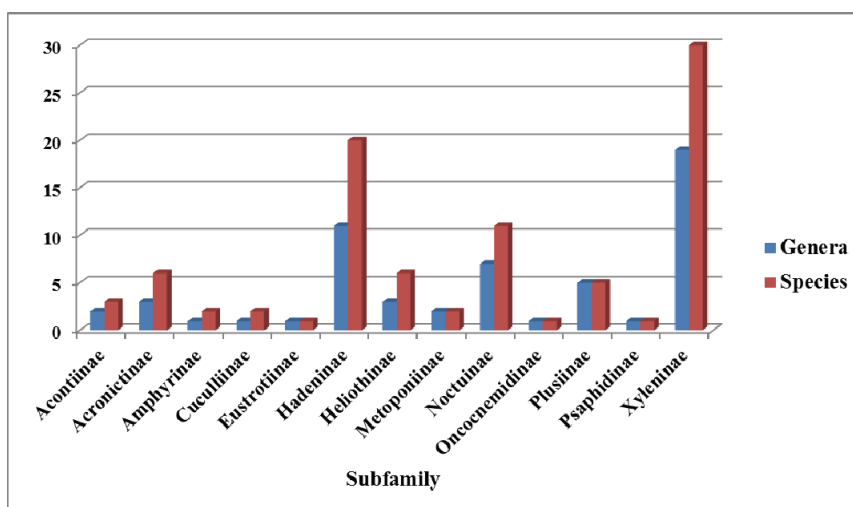


Figure 2. The numerical spectrum of genera and species of noctuid moths from the "R. Stepanov" Entomological Collection.

The species *Heliothis ononis* are reported for the first time for the Republic of Moldova. The species belongs to the subfamily Heliiothinae which registers 11 species in the fauna of the Republic of Moldova. The genus *Heliothis* has so far recorded three species: *Heliothis viroplaca* (Hufnagel, 1766), *Heliothis maritima* de Graslin, 1855 and *Heliothis peltigera* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775).

Below we give a brief feature of the new species *Heliothis ononis*.

Geographical spread: a Holarctic element, migratory species. It is found in China, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Northern Mongolia (Khangai), the Russian Far East (Primorye, the Amur region, the southern Kuriles), the Korean Peninsula, southern European part of Russia, Southern and Central Europe, Southern and Eastern Siberia (Transbaikalia, Yakutia) and Turkey. In North America it is found from south-central Manitoba west to British Columbia, north to the Northwest Territories and Yukon and Alaska and south to Colorado (RÁKOSY, 1996).

Biology: The wingspan is 24-26 mm. The flight of adults begins from May to August, during which they form two overlapping generations. The larvae develop between June-July and August-October. The larvae grow on plant species of the following genera: *Ononis*, *Linum*, *Lamium*, *Salvia* (RÁKOSY, 1996).

Habitat: It is a mesothermophilic species and prefers flowering meadows. The *Heliothis ononis* moths can be observed during the day.

CONCLUSIONS

The catalogue of Noctuid Moths (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) from the "R. Stepanov" Entomological Collection housed at the Museum of Ethnography and Natural History of the Republic of Moldova includes 335 specimens belonging to a total of 90 species included in 57 genera and 13 subfamilies: Acontinae (3 species), Acronictinae (6), Amphyrinae (2), Cucullinae (2), Eustrotiinae (1), Hadeninae (20), Heliiothinae (6), Metoponiinae (2), Noctuidae (11), Oncocnemidinae (1), Plusiinae (5), Psaphidinae (1) and Xyleninae (30 species).

The species *Heliothis ononis* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) are new for the fauna of Republic of Moldova. So, the number of *Heliothis* species identified on the territory of the Republic of Moldova reached 4.

The results contribute to a better understanding of the Noctuidae diversity and their habitat in the Republic of Moldova fauna.

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