

Lyonetiidae of Turkey with notes on their distribution and zoogeography (Lepidoptera)

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Abstract

Five species of Lyonetiidae are reported from Turkey: *Lyonetia prunifoliella* (Hübner, 1796), *Lyonetia clerkella* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Leucoptera malifoliella* (Costa, 1836), *Bedellia somnulentella* (Zeller, 1847), and *Leucoptera laburnella* (Stainton, 1851). The last was collected from *Genista tinctoria* in Ordu province and is considered a new pest in Turkey.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Lyonetiidae, Türkiye, pest, distribution, host plants

Introduction

The family Lyonetiidae is one of the least known groups of Microlepidoptera, with 150 described species worldwide (Baryshnikova 1996). The family was studied by Buszko (1981) in Poland and by Seskjaeva (1981) in the European part of Soviet Russia. Mey (1994) reported 20 species of *Leucoptera* (*sensu lato*) from the western Palearctic region, providing distribution maps of each species.

The larvae of lyonetids mine under the epidermis of fruit and leaves of the host plants, consequently some species are of economic importance. In Turkey there are few faunistic or biological studies on the family; only four species in three genera have been documented. Among these, *Leucoptera prunifoliella* (Hübner, 1796) and *Leucoptera malifoliella* (Costa, 1836) were first reported by Mann (1862). Ecevit et al. (1987) reported *L. malifoliella* as a pest of hazelnut, and Özbek et al. (1996) reported *Lyonetia clerkella* as a pest of peach and cherry trees. *Bedellia somnulentella* was reported from Turkey by Koçak (2001). *Leucoptera laburnella*, which is distributed in Europe and the Dagestan region of Russia, is reported for the first time from Turkey. With this new record, the number of species of the family in Turkey increases to five.