



# Article

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## Catalogue of the type specimens of Yponomeutoidea (Lepidoptera) in the collection of the United States National Museum of Natural History

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### Abstract

The collection of the United States National Museum of Natural History includes 183 type specimens of Yponomeutoidea: 106 holotypes, 24 lectotypes, 2 neotypes and 14 species described from syntypes. The primary type specimens of Yponomeutoidea are catalogued with annotations of their collecting data, specimen condition and, if any, uncertainty involving in the type series. Lectotypes are designated for 23 species comprising six *Argyresthiidae*: *Argyresthia alternatella* Kearfott, 1908, *A. bolliella* Busck, 1907, *A. castaneella* Busck, 1915, *A. furcatella* Busck, 1916, *A. laricella* Kearfott, 1908, *A. libocedrella* Busck, 1916; two *Attevidae*: *Atteva exquisita* Busck, 1912, *Oeta comptana* var. *floridana* Neumoegen, 1891; *Bedelliidae*: *Bedellia minor* Busck, 1900; two *Glyphipterigidae*: *Abrenthia cuprea* Busck, 1915, *Glyphipterix semiflavana* Issiki, 1930; two *Heliodinidae*: *Lamprolophus lithella* Busck, 1900, *Scelorthus pisoniella* Busck, 1900; three *Lyonetiidae*: *Leucoptera erythrinella* Busck, 1900, *L. pachystimella* Busck, 1904, *L. smilaciella* Busck, 1900; *Praydidae*: *Eucatagma amyrisella* Busck, 1900; three *Yponomeutidae*: *Swammerdamia castaneae* Busck, 1914, *Zelleria celastrusella* Kearfott, 1903, *Z. gracilariella* Busck, 1904; three putative yponomeutoids: *Pliniaca bakerella* Busck, 1907, *Pl. sparsisquamella* Busck, 1907, *Podiasa chiococcella* Busck, 1900.

**Key words:** catalogue, Lepidoptera, primary types, USNM, Yponomeutoidea

### Introduction

The United States National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, houses one of the most extensive collections of Lepidoptera in the world. The collection comprises nearly 3 million specimens of lepidopterans including about 25,000 primary types (Flint et al. 1976) and this number continues to grow. Those specimens have been collected from all over the world with an emphasis on the New World fauna. Hence, it is of considerable importance for studies of Lepidoptera from the Nearctic and Neotropical regions.

The primary types of Lepidoptera in the USNM collection comprise holotypes, lectotypes, neotypes, and syntypes, curated in special cabinets separate from the main collection. Yponomeutoidea types are arranged in three drawers, one for Yponomeutidae sensu Kyrki (1990), the second for Ypsolophidae, Plutellidae, Acrolepiidae sensu Dugdale et al. (1998), the third for Glyphipterigidae, Heliodinidae and Lyonetiidae (including Bedelliidae), together with Epermeniidae which has not been included in this catalogue because it no longer belongs to Yponomeutoidea. All specimens in the type collection are arranged by family and then in alphabetical order by species name.

As of January 2012, the Yponomeutoidea type collection consists of 106 holotypes, 24 lectotypes (including 23 designated here), 2 neotypes and 14 species described from syntypes. The earliest researchers who contributed to the formation of the type collection were Vactor T. Chambers (4 spp.) and Lord Walshingham (2 spp., all of which were later synonymized). The type specimens designated by those two entomologists, if extant, were dispersed among the several institutions, including the USNM (Miller & Hodges 1990). The foundation of the yponomeutoid type collection in the USNM were laid by two prolific lepidopterists, August Busck, who during 1900–1944, described 64 species mainly from North America, six of which were later synonymized, and J. F. G. (Jack) Clarke,