

Rediscovery and remarks on occurrence of *Eriogaster rimicola* (DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER, 1775) (Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae) in Poland

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ABSTRACT: First documented records of *Eriogaster rimicola* (DEN & SCHIFF.) from Poland after more than eighty years are presented. A critical review of faunistic data and distribution map is given.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae, *Eriogaster rimicola*, new records, data review, Poland.

Eriogaster rimicola (DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER, 1775) belongs to the family Lasiocampidae, comprising approximately 2000 species widespread on all continents. In Europe, 39 species are known (KARSHOLT & RAZOWSKI 1996), and 19 in Poland (BUSZKO & NOWACKI 2000). The genus *Eriogaster* GERMAR, 1810 is represented in Poland by 3 species, and apart from *E. rimicola*, there are also *E. lanestris* (LINNAEUS, 1758) and *E. catax* (LINNAEUS, 1758). They are medium-size moths with strong and massive bodies and wide wings. A sexual dimorphism is distinctly delineated – females are larger than males and possess filamentous antennae, whereas males feathery ones.

The area of occurrence of *E. rimicola* spans Southern and Central Europe, from the Iberian Peninsula to the coast of the Black Sea. The species range reaches its northern border in Central Poland and Germany.

The species recently disappeared from the marked areas of Central Europe. *Eriogaster rimicola* had its category replaced with the EX one in the Red Book of Dying Out and Endangered Animals in Poland (GŁOWACIŃSKI 2002). In the most recent literature concerning nocturnal Macrolepidoptera (BUSZKO & MASŁOWSKI 2012), the authors include the information “the species has died out in Poland.”

In the course of an entomological research conducted in the environs of Krotoszyn in the Greater Poland Voivodeship, the occurrence of *E. rimicola* has been recorded. These are the first certain and confirmed observations of this species after nearly 80 years in Poland. The new locality:

– XT73 Roszki ad Krotoszyn: 4 X 2012 (1♂), 6 X 2013 (1♂ – fig. 1), a light trap, a 142-year domestic oak stand, leg. M. MACIĄG.



Fig. 1. *Eriogaster rimicola* (DEN & SCHIFF.), male (wingspan 35 mm), Roszki, 6 X 2013, leg. et coll. M. MACIĄG (photo by M. MACIĄG).

Sparse records on the occurrence of *Eriogaster rimicola* in Poland have been hitherto reported. As ROMANISZYN & SCHILLE (1929) claim, one specimen was developed from a caterpillar collected from an oak on 11 June 1862 in Wejherowo (the Pomeranian Voivodeship), which was

stored in the Museum of Gdańsk. The species from the Pomerania region is also provided by E. and H. URBAHN (1939). It is held that someone called CRAMER would find caterpillars on oaks within his manor house in Czerwienice near Lębork and would rear adult specimens that were distinguished with their above-average size.

The species was collected also from Mazovia (KREMKY 1924), which is confirmed by the available evidence material. In the collections of the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, specimens reared out of caterpillars were found, which numerously occurred in June 1918 on oaks in Piaseczna near Warsaw. *Eriogaster rimicola* was also recorded in the vicinity of Łódź (ŚLIWIŃSKI 1995) in Poddębiny near Tuszyn, where in 1936 GŁOWIŃSKI collected caterpillars from oaks, from which a series of specimens were reared.

From the eastern part of the country, one specimen was captured on 10 October 1908 in “Turskie district” near Tarnów (KARPOWICZ 1928). Next data come from the 19th century and they concern Lower Silesia (WOLFF 1928), where the species is recorded from Trzebnica and Ziębice. The third recorded locality is Bukowiec near Wołów, where LANZKE found one caterpillar. However, this information raises some doubts as it is put forward in a cursory manner. What lacks is, among others, the date of the record, and a teacher’s surname mentioned as a founder of the larvae is completely entomologically unknown. Similar doubts raise information on the occurrence of *E. rimicola* near the town of Buk in the Greater Poland Voivodeship. The literature data contained in “The Polish Butterfly Fauna” (ROMANISZYN & SCHILLE 1929) were included there perhaps based on publications concerning butterflies from the environs of Jeżew, the Gostyń District (WIZE 1917, 1922). *Eriogaster rimicola* does not appear in any lists in these publications.

On the map (fig. 2), all known Polish localities of *Eriogaster rimicola* discovered within over 150 years of research have been presented.



Fig. 2. Localities of *Eriogaster rimicola* (DEN & SCHIFF.) in Poland.
⊕ – historic localities ● – locality after 2000.

SUMMARY

During the field research in the Greater Poland Voivodeship, 2 specimens of *Eriogaster rimicola* (DEN&SCHIFF.) were collected on 4 October 2012 and 6 October 2013 in an oak forest nearby the village Roszki in Central Poland. These specimens provide the first certain data on this species in Poland after many years. Previously reliable reports on its occurrence in Poland date back to the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. All known localities are given and presented on the map.

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