

Archanara neurica (Hübner, 1808) (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) new to Norway

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The noctuid moth *Archanara neurica* (Hübner, 1808) is reported new to Norway. In 2008 a few specimens were collected in Farsund in southernmost Norway. Notes on the distribution, external characters, biology and habitat are given.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, *Archanara neurica*, Norway, distribution, biology.

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Introduction

The genus *Archanara* Walker, 1866 belongs to a group of genera with strong ecological affinity to moist habitats. The group was termed the *Rhizedra* genus-group by Zilli et al. (2005), and the following species are recorded from Norway; *Fabula zollikoferi* (Freyer, 1836), *Rhizedra lutosa* (Hübner, 1803), *Nonagria typhae* (Thunberg, 1794), *Arenostola phragmitidis* (Hübner, 1803), *Longalatedes elymi* (Treitschke, 1825) and *Archanara dissoluta* (Treitschke, 1825) (Aarvik et al. 2000, Zilli et al. 2005). Members of the group have larvae that are stem feeders in Poaceae, Typhaceae and Cyperaceae growing on shores, in shallow lakes and in other wet habitats. Two species of *Archanara* are present in Europe, and *A. polita* (Walker, 1865) and *A. resoluta* Hampson, 1910 occur in the eastern part of the Palaearctic region (Zilli et al. 2005). *A. dissoluta* is a recent addition to the Norwegian fauna, and it was discovered as late as in 1996 (Aarvik et al.

2000). We herewith report the second European *Archanara* species, *A. neurica* (Hübner, 1808), as new to Norway.

The records

In 2010 the authors were shown a photo of a moth collected at Lista Fyr on 11 August 2010 by Richard Cope (Figure 1). The collector had photographed the specimen and later released it. After some discussion it was concluded that the photo most probably represented *Archanara neurica* which is a species not previously recorded in Norway. This discovery led the authors to look for the species in collections, and additional Norwegian specimens which had been mixed with *A. dissoluta* were discovered. All of them had been collected by Jan Erik Røer at Lista. The discovery of voucher specimens confirmed that the specimen on the photo had been correctly identified as *A. neurica*. Kai Berggren and Reidar