

# *Catocala adultera* Ménériés, 1856 (Lepidoptera, Erebidae) new to Norway

STIG LUNDMO & PER OLE SYVERTSEN

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The first records from Norway of the underwing moth *Catocala adultera* Ménériés, 1856 are reported, from county Nordland. Five specimens were collected in Rana and Lurøy municipalities in the period 31 August–13 September 2006. A sixth individual was photographed in Fauske municipality 16 September 2006.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuoidea, Erebidae, *Catocala adultera*, Norway, new record.

Stig Lundmo & Per Ole Syvertsen, Helgeland Museum, Natural History Department, P.O. Box 98, NO-8601 Mo i Rana, Norway. E-mails: stig.lundmo@helgelandmuseum.no, pos@helgelandmuseum.no

## Introduction

The underwing moth *Catocala adultera* Ménériés, 1856 is predominantly a Russian species, described from the Saint Petersburg area (Ménériés 1856) and extending west to Finland (Skou 1991, Goater *et al.* 2003). Skou (1991) described it as rather uncommon in Finland, but possibly established in the southeast of the country. *Catocala adultera* is a periodic immigrant in large numbers to Finland from the east and southeast, with major waves being noted in 1954, 1960, 1972 and 1973, during which they have reached as far as 70° N, and an irregular immigrant to Sweden and Denmark (Skou 1991). *Catocala adultera* is associated with deciduous forest with aspen *Populus tremula* on which the larva feeds, and the flight period is from late July to early September.

Given its frequency and recent expansion in Finland, and its occasional occurrence in Sweden and Denmark, it was foreseeable that *Catocala adultera* would eventually be recorded in Norway as well. Its occurrence here was finally confirmed in the region of the Arctic Circle in 2006, details of which are presented below.

## Material and methods

Over a period of two weeks in late August–early September 2006 five individuals of *Catocala adultera* that had been attracted to light sources were collected in the municipalities of Rana and Lurøy, county Nordland (Figure 1). One of the individuals were caught while resting next to outdoor lights, and the rest in light traps set for nocturnal Lepidoptera. A sixth individual, also attracted to outdoor light, was photographed in Fauske municipality a few days thereafter, about 100km north of the other records (Figure 2). The five collected specimens were incorporated in the collections of Helgeland Museum, Natural History Department (referred to as RMZ).

## Records

**NSI** Rana: Alteren (EIS 123, UTM WGS84 33W VP 53699 54541) 31 August 2006, 1♀, attracted to light-trap, leg. Stig Lundmo, coll. RMZ 7223-1; **NSI** Rana: Båsmoen, Stenneset bygdetun (EIS 123, UTM WGS84 33W VP 59345 56765) 2