

New records of the Old Lady, *Mormo maura* (Linnaeus, 1758), on the island of Mallorca (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

Noves citacions de *Mormo maura* (Linnaeus, 1758) a l'illa de Mallorca (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

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Mormo maura (Linnaeus, 1758) is a univoltine species with a flight period from June to September (Fibiger & Hacker 2007, Waring *et al.* 2009). It exhibits lucifugous behaviour and can be found mainly under bridges, in the basements of houses and in dark places. It inhabits damp areas (Robineau *et al.* 2007), but also woody and bushy areas, especially along lakes and river-banks (Fibiger & Hacker 2007), as well as marshes, gardens and hedges (Waring *et al.* 2009). It has a supra-Mediterranean-Asian distribution (Fibiger & Hacker 2007) and is widespread across central and southern Europe, occurring in most regions of the Iberian Peninsula.

In the Balearic Islands, *M. maura* has been previously reported only at Torrent d'Esporles (Mallorca), specifically a female observed on 21 June 1988 (Petitpierre 1988). It has not been recorded from the Albufera Natural Park (Riddiford 2003), where most scientific work on moths in the Balearic Islands has been carried out, probably because most of the sampling effort in this locality is conducted during spring and autumn when *M. maura* is not on the wing.

A number of karstic canyons in the Serra de Tramuntana Mountains were visited to monitor moth species during the summer of 2010 and 2011 and the specimens noted here were detected in the morning at 09.00-14.00 (table 1). All were found resting on the base of the walls of the canyons and occasionally in groups (fig. 1).

A common feature of the localities in which *M. maura* was found is that they are closed areas with little direct light. This dark and humid environment is the type of environment that this species prefers (Robineau *et al.* 2007), as it is known to aestivate in the summer (Fibiger & Hacker 2007). All records are from the protected natural area of the Serra de Tramuntana Mountains.

Available data suggests that the current known distribution of this species in the Balearic Islands is limited to streams and canyons in the Serra de Tramuntana Mountains.

Table 1 List of *Mormo maura* (Linnaeus, 1758) records from the Tramuntana Mountain Range.

Locality	Municipality	UTM	Date	Number of specimens
Clot de Monnàber	Fornalutx	31SED7905	8th July 2010	A group of aprox. 15 specimens
Clot de Monnàber	Fornalutx	31SED7905	30th June 2011	46 specimens in two groups
Torrent des Guix.	Escorca	31SED9105	4th July 2011	2 specimens
Barranc de Biniaraix	Fornalutx and Escorca	31SED7801	6th July 2011	1 specimen
Torrent de Lluc	Escorca	31SED8710	8th July 2011	1 specimen
Torrent fondo de Mortitx	Escorca	31SED9214	13th July 2011	3 specimens



Fig. 1 A group of 30 specimens in social summer aestivation found in Clot de Monnàber (Fornalutx).

Despite not being recorded elsewhere, this noctuidae may be present in other habitats in the Balearic Islands. More survey work is needed to determine the actual distribution of the species on the islands and its habitat preference as per Robineau *et al.* (2007) and Waring *et al.* (2009).

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