

Noctua janthina and *N. janthe* (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) in Finland

Kari Nupponen & Timo Nupponen

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Of the 15 reported Finnish finds of *Noctua janthe* (Borkhausen, 1792) one proved to be *N. janthina* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775), which is now for the first time recorded from Finland. The two species are compared, and their distribution in Finland recorded.

Kari Nupponen, Rakuunantie 1C 30, SF-00330 Helsinki, Finland

Timo Nupponen, Ulvilantie 20 B 14, SF-00350 Helsinki, Finland

The *Noctua janthina* group has been shown to contain three species (von Mentzer et al. 1991). Two of these, *N. janthina* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) and *N. janthe* (Borkhausen, 1792), have been found in northern Europe. *N. janthina* is a rare immigrant in Scandinavia; only a few specimens from Denmark and southern Sweden are known. *N. janthe* invaded southern Scandinavia in the 1920s, and nowadays it is a fairly common species there. No data are available from the Baltic countries.

Only 16 specimens belonging to the *Noctua janthina* complex are known from Finland, from

provinces *Ab* and *N*. We checked 15 of them and found that 14 exx belong to *N. janthe* and one specimen to *N. janthina*, which latter has not previously been reported from Finland.

Characters differentiating *N. janthina* and *N. janthe*

N. janthina and *N. janthe* can easily be distinguished by the black margin of the upper-side of the hindwing. The fascia is wide in *N. janthina* and narrow in *N. janthe* (see Fig. 1). In the

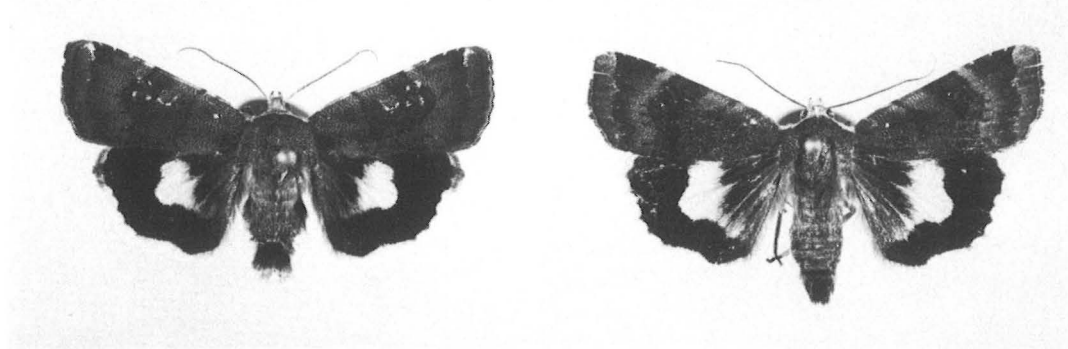


Fig. 1. — Left: *Noctua janthe* (Borkh.) Finland 663:30 N: Tammisaari, Jussarö 18.–24.8.1990 T. & K. Nupponen leg. — Right: *Noctua janthina* (D. & S.) Finland 663:30 N: Tammisaari, Jussarö 2.8.1983 T. & K. Nupponen leg.

forewing under-side there are also clear differences between these two species (Skou, 1991). The genitalia also show some specific characters (von Mentzer et al. 1991). *N. janthina* seems to be more robust in appearance, and does not seem to have as mottled forewings as *N. janthe*.

The Finnish records

Noctua janthina (Denis & Schiffermüller)

N: Tammisaari, Jussarö 663:30, 2.8.1983 1 ♂ T. & K. Nupponen leg.

N. janthe (Borkhausen)

N: Helsinki, Suomenlinna 667:38, 17.8.1965 1 ♂ Tuukka Talvio leg.

N: Helsinki, Isosaari 666:39, 2.8.1975 1 ex., J. Karvonen leg.

Ab: Kisko, Haapaniemi 668:30, 1.–6.9.1975 K. Wettenhovi leg.

N: Tammisaari mlk., Tvärminne 664:28, 14.–23.8.1976, 1 ex., H. Holmberg, I. Kontuniemi, J. Wettenhovi & P. Koskinen leg.

N: Helsinki, Eira 667:38, 28.7.1980 1 ♂ K. Nissinen leg.

N: Helsinki 667:39, 7.–11.8.1985 1 ♂ H. Koski leg.

N: Hanko, Tvärminne 664:28 3.–12.8.1988 1 ♀ C. Hublin & M. Landtman leg.

N: Hanko, Russarö 663:27, 14.–25.8.1990 1 ♀ J. Kullberg leg.

N: Tammisaari, Jussarö 663:30, 18.–24.8.1990 1 ♂ T. & K. Nupponen leg.

N: Hanko, Russarö 663:27, 3.–16.8.1991 1 ♂, 17.–30.8.1991 1 ♂ 2 ♀, 31.8.–13.9.1991 1 ♂ T. & K. Nupponen leg.

We were not able to check the identity of the specimen from *Ab*: Nauvo 667:23, 5.7.1984, D. Lindblom leg.

Discussion

It is probable that most specimens of *N. janthe* are immigrants in Finland, as the finds have often been made during warm southern winds. However, it seems possible that *N. janthe* can occasionally breed in the southwestern archipelago of Finland. For example, during summer 1991, five specimens of this species were collected from one locality. *N. janthina* is an occasional immigrant in Finland.

Earlier records of *N. janthina* in the Finnish literature concern *N. janthe* (see Mikkola & Jalas 1977). Skou (1991) mentions 9 exx. of *N. janthe* caught in Finland, but one of them is in fact *N. janthina*. Most, if not all, specimens have been collected with light traps.

References

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