

## DR. C. DE LUCCA AND HIS WORK AS A BIOLOGIST

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Dr. Carmelo De Lucca who died on the 6th March, 1971, was born at Msida, Malta, on the 24th November, 1916. He studied at the Lyceum and later at the Royal University of Malta, where he obtained the Bachelorship in Science and qualified as a Pharmaceutical Chemist in 1939. He graduated in Medicine in 1943.

He served as Resident Medical Officer in the various Hospitals of the island from 1943 to 1946. He was appointed District Medical Officer on the 24th August, 1946 with residence in the village of Gharghur, Malta, where he lived until his death and in whose neighbourhood he carried out many of his observations on the entomological and ornithological life of Malta.

Dr. De Lucca was at the University of Malta as Demonstrator in Biology for the periods 1947-50, 1953-56 and from January to May 1959 and from 1962 up to the time of his death as Lecturer in Pharmacognosy.

In 1964 Dr. De Lucca was invited to attend a congress of Mediterranean Biologists, held at the Institut Océanographique of Monaco by the Commission Internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée. At this Congress he read a paper entitled "The place of Lepidoptera in the Zoogeography of the Maltese Islands" which was published in the *Rapports et Procès-verbaux des Réunions de la C.I.E.S.M.M.* (volume xviii (2) 1965).

When the Ministry of Education, Cul-

ture and Tourism decided to set up a National Sciences and Folklore Museum at Vilhena Palace at Notabile, Malta, Dr. De Lucca was appointed, on the 1st July 1967, Assistant Curator of the Natural History Section. On the death on the 3rd October 1970 of the Curator of the Section, the late Professor H. Micallef, Dr. De Lucca acted as Curator.

In 1969, Dr. De Lucca published "A revised check list of the Birds of the Maltese Islands". This check-list was the result of about forty years of watching, recording and collecting as many specimens as could be reasonably found in the Maltese Island. Particular attention was given to re-assessing and determining the subspecies of birds found in both islands and to arranging the Families, Genera, etc., in accordance with modern views on Bird Systematics. The Publishers (E. W. Clasley Ltd. of Hampton, Middlesex) in the Introduction wrote: "... Self-advertisement would sit strangely on the shoulders of the author of the present work and in fact, the reader will find that the work itself is all that is necessary, or indeed could be said, in praise of his scholarship."

Through the good offices of Dr. De Lucca, his father, Mr. Vincenzo De Lucca, donated in 1969 to the Museum Department, Malta, a fine collection of birds consisting of over 600 mounted specimens and including a number of rare items.

In 1970 Dr. I. R. F. Brown and Professor W. H. Bannister of the Department of Physiology and Biochemistry of the Royal University of Malta and Dr. De Lucca published "A comparison of Maltese and Sicilian Sparrow Haemoglobins" in the *Journal of Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology*, vol. 34 published by the Pergamon Press of Great Britain.

Dr. De Lucca was a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, the British Ornithologists' Club, the British Trust for Ornithology and the Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali, a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London and the local representative of the Royal Naval Bird Watching Society.

A list of publications by Dr. De Lucca is given below:

1948

*Notes on some moths observed at Malta.* "The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine", vol. lxxxiv, 30th July, 1948, listing seven moths occurring in but not previously recorded for Malta.

*Some species of Crambidae (Lepidoptera, Heteroneura, Pyralinae) observed in Malta* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxi, October, 1948.

Six species of Lepidopterous fauna not previously recorded for Malta.

*Some aspects of the Biology of the Lepidoptera* — "Scientia", vol. xiv, No. 2 April-June, 1948. A description of the life stages of Lepidoptera.

1949

*Further moth captures from Malta* — "The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine", vol. lxxxv, 25th April, 1949. Nine species of Lepidoptera not previously recorded for Malta.

*Further notes on Lepidoptera Heterocera from Malta* — "The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine", vol. lxxxv, 22nd July, 1949.

Eleven species of Lepidoptera caught between 1940-48 and not previously recorded for Malta.

*Microlepidoptera new to the Maltese Islands* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxii, July, 1949.

Twelve species of microlepidoptera not previously recorded for Malta.

1950

*Contributo all'Ornitologia delle Isole Maltesi* — "Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia", anno xx, serie II, 1950.

Systemic list of rare or accidental birds caught in Malta since about 1936.

*Casual immigrant Rhopalocera in Malta* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxiii, February, 1950.

An account of species of Rhopalocera occurring in Malta and recorded by various authors.

*A contribution to the list of Maltese Lepidoptera* — "The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine", vol. lxxxvi, 8th September, 1950.

Twenty-five species of Lepidoptera Heterocera caught by the Author during the years 1948-49 and not previously recorded for Malta.

*Additional records of Micro-Lepidoptera from Malta* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxiii, November, 1950.

Fourteen species of Crambidae, Pterophoridae, Phaloriidae, Cosmopterygidae, Oecophoridae, Ethmiidae and Tireidae caught by the Author and not previously recorded for Malta.

1951

*Notes on the biology of Cnephasia Gueneanae Duponchel (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxiv, September, 1951.

The larval form of this species was first discovered by the Author and described in these "Notes".

*New additions to the Lepidoptera of Malta* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxiv, November, 1951.

Twenty-five species of Heterocera and Microlepidoptera caught by the Author and not previously recorded for Malta.

1953

*Additions to the list of Maltese Microlepidoptera* — "The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine", vol. lxxxix, 28th May, 1953.

Twenty species of Crambidae, Phycitinae, Pyralinae, Pterophoridae, Eucosmidae, Glyphipterigidae, Gelechiidae, Plutellidae, Oecophoridae, Depressariinae, Gracilariidae and Tineidae caught by the

Author and not previously recorded for Malta.

1956

*New additions to the Lepidoptera of the Maltese Islands* — "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxix, October, 1956.

Thirty-two species of Nocteridae, Cadrinae, Phytonetrinae, Catoculinae, Geometridae, Sterrhinae, Geometrinae, Phycitinae, Pyraustinae, Pteroforidae, Pholonidae, Eucomidae, Gelechiidae, Cosmopteridae, Oecophoridae, Coleophoridae, Tineidae caught by the Author and not previously recorded for Malta.

1959

*Note sull'Ornitologia delle Isole Maltesi* — "Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia", XXIX year, series II, Milan 1959.

The correct status of many subspecies of birds new to Malta assessed by the Author and his father, Mr. Vincenzo De Lucca — co-authors of these "Note".

1965

*The place of Lepidoptera in the Zoogeography of the Maltese Islands* — Extraits des Rapport et Procès-verbaux des Réunions de la Commission Internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée, volume xviii (2) 1965.

A paper on the faunal and vegetation aspects and the characters of Maltese Lepidoptera prepared and read by the Author at a congress of Mediterranean biologists held at Monaco in 1964.

1967

*The migration of birds* — "Journal of the Royal University of Malta Biological Society", — January, 1967.

Notes on the Migratory movements of birds.

*Cisticola juncidis in Malta* — "Ibis", 109, no. 4, October 1967.

Recording the occurrence of four birds of this species at Salini, Malta, in June, 1967.

*Appunti sull'Ornitologia delle Isole Maltesi* — "Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia", XXXVII year, series II, Milan 1967. — Systematic list of rare or accidental birds occurring for the first time in the Maltese Islands between 1955 and 1966.

1969

*Emitteri Eterotteri Maltesi* — "Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana", vol. xcix - ci, no. 5-6, 20 June 1969.

Systematic list of twelve species of Miridae, Lygacidae, Pyrrhocoridae, Rohopalidae, Pentatomidae, Cydnidae caught by the Author and not previously recorded for Malta.

*Lepidoptera of the Maltese Islands* — "Entomologist's Record" vol. 81, 15th May 1969. Systematic list of twenty-six species Heterocera and Microlepidoptera caught by the Author or by Mr. P. Sammut and not previously recorded for Malta. The Author also refers to the capture of sixteen rare species during the period 1951-66.

*Bird migration over the Maltese Islands 'Ibis' III*, July 1969.

A broad survey of bird migration.

*A revised check-list of the Birds of the Maltese Islands* — E. W. Classey Ltd. Hampton, Middlesex, February 1969.

Besides giving a true picture of the past and present status of the various species of birds found in the Maltese Islands, the Author gives the subspecies or races of all the birds known to occur or to have occurred in the Maltese Islands as migrants, resident, rare visitors or vagrant and records those species or subspecies that have been identified since 1917 including new occurrences.

Besides the abovementioned publications, Dr. De Lucca supplied the necessary material on which the following publications were prepared — *Une nouvelle variété d'Aciptilia: A. spicidactyla insularis nova* by L. Bigot in "Lambillionca", vol. lxi, nos. 7-8 of the 25th August 1961.

A description of a moth, based on specimens caught and supplied by Dr. De Lucca and which, on account of the smaller wingspan, M. Bigot considered to be a species different from the typical one.

*Two new Micro-Lepidoptera from Malta* — by Dr. H. G. Amsel of Baden, "The Entomologist", vol. lxxxv, no. 1071, August 1952.

Description of a new species which the Author dedicated to Dr. De Lucca (*Oegoconia deluccai* sp.n.) and of a new

species (*Apatema fasciata melitensis* ssp. n.) which were both caught in Malta by Dr. De Lucca in October 1950.

*Newe Pterophoriden, Gelechüden und Tineiden aus Palästina und Malta* by Dr. H. G. Amsel of Buchenburg/Baden in Bull. Soc. Fouad ler Entom.' xxxviii, 1954 (51).

Description of four new species of Pterophoridae, Gelechiidae and Tineidae. Of these species, one was named by Dr.

Amsel after Dr. De Lucca (*Praeacedes deluccae* sp.n.). These lepidoptera were caught by Dr. De Lucca in Malta.

*Über Mediterrane Micro-Lepidopteren und einige Transcaspische arten von Hans Georg Amsel (Karlsruhe) in the 'Bulletin' of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, tome xxxi, no. 83, Bruxelles, December 1955.*