Montebello, Manager of the Milk Marketing Undertaking.

References


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

MARIO GAUCI

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, Culture 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. Classey 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.

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.


1949


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


Twelve species of microlepidoptera not previously recorded for Malta.

1950


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


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


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


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

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. lxxxv, November, 1951.

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

1953


Twenty species of Crambidae, Phycitinae, Pyralinae, Pterophoridae, Eucosmiidae, Glyphipterigidae, Gelechiidae, Plutellidae, Oecophoridae, Depressariinae, Gracillariidae and Tireidae 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, Caradrinae, Phytonetrinae, Catoculinae, Geometridae, Sterrhinae, Geometrinae, Phycitinae, Pyraustinae, Pteroforidae, Pholoniiidae, Eucomidae, Gelechiidae, Cosmopterigidae, Oecophoridae, Coleophoridae, Thineida 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


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.


1969


Systematic list of twelve species of Miridae, Lygacidae, Pyrrhocoridae, Rhopalidae, 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.


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.


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.


RETROPERITONEAL TUMOURS
A Study of Five Cases

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Retroperitoneal tumours and cysts are often regarded as a nebulous group of lesions with a sinister reputation, probably through their uncommon incidence coupled with the fact that their potential site of origin, is anatomically extensive and may be remote. The many and varied pathological classifications put forward in the literature add little to help one form a sharper mental picture of the clinical problem they pose. The present communication is a study of five cases which have all come under our care in the space of a few months.

Case 1. P.B. Male aged 29.

First admitted to hospital in Melbourne, Australia in February 1970 with a history of progressive loss of appetite coming on in December 1969 followed, within a month, by continuous pain in the back felt on both sides but worse on the left. He also complained of epigastric pain felt immediately on eating. Three weeks previous to admission he had had a bout of melaena, and four days before admission he had haematuria with passage of clots per urethram. There was no haematemesis, no haemoptysis and no chest pain or cough.

On examination he looked pale. There was no cervical node enlargement. Pulse 80, regular; B.P. 140/80.

There was good chest expansion, good air entry throughout and normal breath sounds. The heart sounds were normal.

Abdominal examination revealed a tender mass in the left loin. Special investigations were as follows:

Ba. Meal: No free oesophageal reflux or hiatus hernia. Stomach was reasonably well filled and outlined. No obvious organic lesion could be seen. Unable to fill the duodenal cap sufficiently to exclude pathological states.

Chest X-Ray — Pleural fluid left base. No obvious pulmonary changes.