

## A survey of Pterophoridae (Lepidoptera) of North-Eastern Sicily with new distributional records

Vera D'URSO<sup>1)</sup>, Giovanni MARCHESE<sup>1)</sup> & Jacques NEL<sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup>Department of Animal Biology "Marcello La Greca", University of Catania,  
Via Androne 81, 95124 Catania, Italy; e-mail: dursove@unict.it

<sup>2)</sup>8 Avenue Fernard Gassion, F-13600 La Ciotat, France

**Abstract.** A survey of north-eastern Sicilian biotopes allowed us to increase the number of the Pterophoridae known on the island to a total of 59 species. The genus *Adaina* Tutt, 1905, and seven species, *Adaina microdactyla* (Hübner, 1813), *Wheeleria spilodactyla* (Curtis, 1827), *Capperia celeusi* (Frey, 1866), *Capperia fusca* (Hofmann, 1898), *Stenoptilia grisescens* Schawerda, 1933, *Stenoptilia mariaeluisae* Bigot & Picard, 2002, and *Stenoptilia pelidnodactyla* (Stein, 1837), are new for Sicily, and basic ecological data are given for these species. Some old records are confirmed and notes and comments on others are given.

**Key words.** Microlepidoptera, Pterophoridae, plume-moths, checklist, new records, faunistics, host plant, Italy, Sicily

### Introduction

The Pterophoridae are called Plume Moths because of a feather-like appearance of their wings. They possess a cleft in the fore wing and a double cleft in the hind wing, lacking only in the subfamily Agdistinae with uncleft wings. Nearly 1,200 species of the Pterophoridae belonging to 90 genera are known worldwide, and are found in almost all biotopes (GIELIS 2003).

The data on the pterophorid biology in the Mediterranean have been nearly entirely given from the south of France and Corsica by French authors (NEL 1986, 1987, 2002; GIBEAUX & NEL 1991). The family has not been studied in detail in Italy and especially in Sicily, and the knowledge of the Italian Pterophoridae is still incomplete and fragmentary. Only PROLA & RACHELI (1984) and RACHELI & ANGELONI (1990) attempted to give an inclusive picture of the Italian fauna of the Pterophoridae.

The checklist of the Italian species and subsequent additional studies have reported a total of 120 species and 31 genera in Italy, of which 52 species and 22 genera have been found in