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The Lepidoptera collection from Sierra Leone of Lieutenant Ellis Leech in the Manchester Museum

BY LAURENCE M. COOK, MICHAEL DOCKERY & DMITRI V. LOGUNOV

Department of Entomology, *The Manchester Museum*, *The University of Manchester*, *Manchester M13 9PL*, *U.K.*; *email: dmitri.v.logunov@manchester.ac.uk*

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ABSTRACT

We discuss a small collection of butterflies and other insects presented to the Manchester Museum in 1904. It was made by an officer of the colonial administration in Sierra Leone. The collector, Ellis Joynson Leech, was a member of a family that had established itself as part of Manchester society during the 19th century. The Museum also has donations made by two other family members. Their varied contributions may help to explain some of the anomalies in the insect collection.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, social history, colonialism, shared heritage, historic records, Manchester, Sierra Leone, West Africa

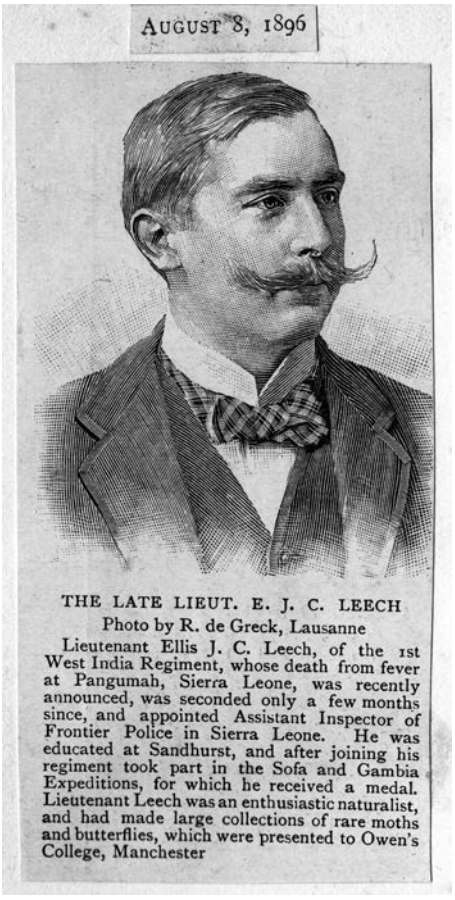
INTRODUCTION

There are 2141 museums in England (Which Museum, n.d. [no date]). Some focus on specialisms, such as Egyptology, local history, *etc*., while others are more general. The Manchester Museum is a large university museum and one of thirty-two in England with Designated Status as being of national and international importance (Arts Council 2018). One of its key strengths is entomology, with about two and a half million insects, of which over 150,000 are Lepidoptera (Miles 2019). Many of these specimens have been donated by individuals or their families. The 19th and early 20th centuries saw a great development of interest in natural history, accompanied by enthusiasm for making collections. The collectors, many of them colonial agents of various kinds (Alberti 2009), were often the people responsible for the commercial and industrial developments and innovations that were occurring at the time, so that their collections not only reflect the personal interests of the collectors but also the social history of the century. Very often they are also bound up with, and can be explored and interpreted through, the lens of colonial history (Das & Lowe 2018; McKenzie 2017; Weber 2021). As argued by Weber (2021: p. 84), millions of plants and animals that are deposited in natural history museums in the West could serve today not only as an archive of nature but also as 'a shared heritage of a mobile imperial past' in which 'local expertise about flora and fauna, natural history, and often violent forms of colonialism played a pivotal role'. Like many others in the 19th century 'the Manchester Museum was certainly consolidated by colonial material' (Alberti 2009: p. 94). That includes the small butterfly collection considered below.

As part of a review of the African Lepidoptera holding we have examined a small series of butterflies and moths from western Africa received as a donation from Ellis Leech in 1895 (Report 1895–96). Two parts of the African lepidopteran section have already been discussed. One relates to the late 19th/early 20th century David

Longsdon collection of papilionid butterflies (Dockery & Logunov 2015), which was assembled by purchase and donated to the Museum in January 1938, a few months after the owner's death. Longsdon's intention was to have specimens of all the species in the group including all known colour morphs and subspecies. The other is the more recent Wooff collection (Dockery & Logunov 2018). This was made while W.R. Wooff was working at various times on control of tsetse and other biting flies in different parts of Africa. He concentrated on species in the families Nymphalidae and Pieridae, and used a novel form of preservation and presentation of the specimens by mounting the wings on cards.

The Leech collection considered here appears to be a more casual record of species encountered during an overseas military posting. Its study was prompted by an enquiry (13 January 2019) to the Manchester Museum's Curator of Arthropods from Ms Gwyneth Wilkie, who was working on the Leech family history and sought information on the status of the Ellis Leech insect collection. With the kind help of Ms Wilkie, important details of his biography and photographs from the family album (Fig. 1) have become available and are presented below.


AUGUST 8, 1896

THE LATE LIEUT. E. J. C. LEECH

Photo by R. de Greck, Lausanne

Lieutenant Ellis J. C. Leech, of the 1st West India Regiment, whose death from fever at Pangumah, Sierra Leone, was recently announced, was seconded only a few months since, and appointed Assistant Inspector of Frontier Police in Sierra Leone. He was educated at Sandhurst, and after joining his regiment took part in the Sofa and Gambia Expeditions, for which he received a medal. Lieutenant Leech was an enthusiastic naturalist, and had made large collections of rare moths and butterflies, which were presented to Owen's College, Manchester

Photo: Courtesy Ms Gwyneth Wilkie

Fig. 1. — Excerpt from an album with a notice from *The Graphic* recording the death of E.J.C. Leech and the donation to Manchester Museum.

BIOGRAPHY NOTES

Ellis Joynson Chalmer Leech (1867–1896) was born into a family living in a district a little east of Manchester associated with the two rivers, Tame and the Goyt, that join at Stockport to form the source of the Mersey. Through the 19th century this area changed rapidly from rural meadows and farmland into a centre of industrialization based originally on water-driven mills, the presence of coal measures and the processing of imported cotton into a variety of manufactured goods. Along with the entrepreneurial spirit that drove the change, contemporary natural history writing developed, indicating a continued interest in wildlife and countryside and sometimes nostalgia for a less developed past (*e.g.*, Grindon 1882). The life of Joseph Sidebotham (1824–1885), son of the manager of the Gibraltar Mill on the Tame and later partner in a cotton dying works at Strines on the Goyt, who was a general naturalist, photographer and astronomer besides being a keen collector of moths and butterflies, epitomises these themes (Cook 2015).

Some details of the Leech family are to be found online at the *Gathering the Threads* site (2021). Like Sidebotham, the family had roots in the Manchester cotton industry. Ellis's grandfather Thomas Leech (1790–1863) owned a cotton mill in Ancoats, close to the city centre. His father, John Joseph Leech (1842–1901), started as a book-keeper in Salford and then lived in Marple, on the Goyt, where he was a cotton agent. He and his wife Elizabeth had a daughter Josephine (1866–1883) as well as a son. By the end of the decade, and for reasons unknown, J.J. had travelled to Australia, leaving the family at home. He is recorded as being Town Clerk in Normanton, on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland, in 1887, returning to England by 1889. He was again there in 1893–4, and during some of this time assembled a collection of Australian and New Guinea artefacts. John Joseph is not recorded as having been to New Guinea; there would, however, have been trade between there and Queensland.

John Joseph had an elder brother, Bosdin Thomas Leech (1836–1912), later Sir Bosdin, a man of affairs, promoter of the Manchester Ship Canal and Alderman of the City (Bosdin Thomas Leech, n.d.). His son, and Ellis's cousin, Ernest Bosdin Leech (1875–1950) was a physician who worked at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and was active in effecting its move from the City Centre to its present location beside the University. Ernest may have acquired his interest in medicine from his uncle Daniel John Leech (1840–1900; Anon. 1900), Bosdin's brother, who became professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics at Owens College and subsequently Pro-Vice Chancellor of its successor institution, the Victoria University of Manchester. He bequeathed a Materia Medica collection to the University which subsequently passed to the Manchester Museum (Anon. 2010; Houghton 2017; Houghton & Kuglitsch n.d.).

John Joseph Leech returned permanently from Australia and died in London in 1901. His will included instructions to ensure that collections made both by him, of Australian and New Guinea artefacts, and his son, of insects, would be given to the Museum. They were presented by his widow, Elizabeth, who had remained in Marple, although some artefacts were also auctioned. The Museum therefore possesses collections from three members of the Leech family.

As a young man Ellis became a military cadet and as Second Lieutenant in the 1st West India Regiment was sent to Sierra Leone, West Africa (*London Gazette*, 9 Oct 1891: p. 5279). Subsequently he was posted as an Assistant Inspector of Frontier

Police (popularly known as 'The Frontiers'; see Stewart 2008), which was established only in mid-January 1890 'for service both within and without the Colony' and for securing peace in remote regions of the country (Crooks 1903: p. 297). It is not known whether Leech was interested in insects as a boy but he was already a keen naturalist (G. Wilkie, pers. comm., January 2019), which may have been one of the reasons why he opted to serve in Sierra Leone, a country that at that time earned among Europeans the title 'The White Man's Grave' (see Cole 2015). His short spell in Africa gave him opportunities to collect. As an officer of the Frontier Police, Ellis Leech participated in the military campaigns against the Sofa marauders of the west coast of Africa (1893–4; for further details on this expedition see Crooks 1903) and the Islamic leader Fode Sillah (= Ibrahim Touray, 1830–1894) to the Gambia in 1894 (Hart's *New Army List*, 1895). In September 1894, Ellis was in the north-eastern part of Sierra Leone for the delimitation of the Anglo-French frontier (*The Times* of 18 Sept 1894, p. 3). He produced a map which among other things contributed to the Agreement between the English and French Boundary Commissioners in January 1895 (Crooks 1903).

By July 1896, at the early age of 29, Ellis Leech contracted fever at Panguma in central Sierra Leone. The exact cause of his death is not known but it was likely to have been malaria, the 'principal enemy' of the imperial settings in West Africa (Simpson 1911, 1913; Cole 2015). Based on a report of Surgeon-captain Duggan (1897), military expeditions into the interior of Sierra Leone were usually limited to two months, while the officers of The Frontiers had to spend up to fifteen months there. As a result, they suffered higher sickness and death rates in comparison to those who served on the coast.

In 1896 there was a notice of Leech's death in *The Globe* newspaper (28 July, p. 7). In it he was described as an enthusiastic and skilful naturalist who assembled a large series of butterflies and moths containing 'many specimens of great rarity and beauty, including a considerable number which are believed new to science'. So far as we know, no new species were actually described. However, his collection contained not only lepidopterans but specimens of other insect orders which largely remain undetermined. The Hymenoptera, in particular, could contain rare or new species.

THE BUTTERFLY COLLECTION

The Annual Report (1895–96: pp. 3, 16) states that the Manchester Museum obtained from Lieutenant Leech a 'large collection of insects of all orders from West Africa', which were 'placed in order among the general systematic series' by John Ray Hardy (1844–1921), Assistant Keeper of the Museum at the time. We have been able to locate and record most of the Lepidoptera specimens, which can be recognised by characteristic labels (Fig. 2). Some 50 of them arrived in the Manchester Museum as papered specimens. Individual triangular envelopes were mostly made from newspapers (especially *The Times*, though one was cut from a German newspaper), magazines (including a few from the British Medical Journal) and books. The triangles varied in size (Fig. 3), according to the size of the insect contained. A few of the newspaper sheets, including the German example, had a date and were all from the period October – December 1893. Presumably Leech made the triangles locally. All the papered specimens were mounted, labelled and identified in 2019.

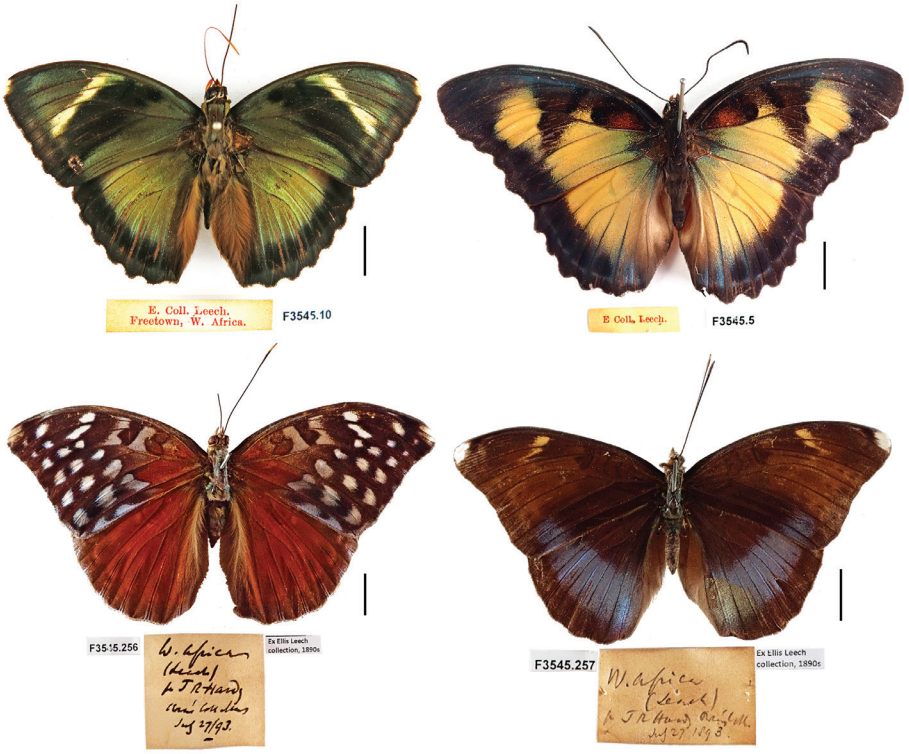


Photo: © The Manchester Museum

Fig. 2. — Common Pink Forester (*Euphaedra xypete*; F3545.10), Common Themis Forester, (*Euphaedra themis*; F3545.5), Arcadian (*Bebearia arcadius*; F3545.256) and Grey Forester (*Bebearia demetra*; F3545.257), family Nymphalidae, from the Lepidoptera collection of Ellis Leech. Scale bar = 1cm.

Photo: © The Manchester Museum

Fig. 3. — Triangular paper envelopes in which some of the Lepidoptera collected by Ellis Leech were kept (on the left) and Green-banded Swallowtail (*Papilio phorcas*; on the right), family Papilionidae, one of the species that was kept as a papered specimen. Scale bar = 1cm.

As well as Lepidoptera we have located some other insects: viz., Odonata, Hymenoptera, Orthoptera and Coleoptera (Fig. 4). Based on the appearance of the hand-written labels on damselflies and some hymenopterans (Fig. 4: F3545.244, 250, 254–255), it is safe to conclude that these specimens were mounted and labelled by Alan Brindle (1915–2001) during his term of keepership at the Manchester Museum (1962–82).

Ellis Leech's butterfly collection in the Museum (Table 2) contains 221 specimens, falling into 93 identified species and few not yet identified. Several have been subject to taxonomic revision after the time of Leech's death. The available data on labels suggests that most insects were collected in 1891–3 in the neighbourhood of the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown. However, this locality cannot be taken as the only one for all specimens, for many do not have exact data labels specifying locality and/or date. Extended field trips to the interior of the country and beyond were commonplace for officers serving as The Frontiers (Duggan 1897). The majority of lepidopterans collected by Leech belong to the family Nymphalidae, the next largest series to the Lycaenidae. Like Wooff, mentioned above, the pattern of sampling could reflect preferences on the part of the collector. This is clearly the case with respect to the Hesperiidae, a diverse group in the tropics here almost entirely ignored.

The rest of Leech's material may be compared with that of Denis Owen (1971), who recorded the species composition of the butterfly fauna of his Freetown garden in the late 1960s using sweep net, Malaise trap and fruit baited traps. He also provides a contemporary species list for Sierra Leone as a whole. It has since been much enlarged (Anon. n.d.). Owen left out the Hesperiidae and Lycaenidae from his survey, considering the Lycaenids, at least, to be too species-rich to provide an adequate picture. For the rest there is good agreement between the three data sets (Table 1). A little later, Cook (1978) examined species group composition along a transect of the Lualaba (Congo) river running from 8°S to 1.5°N. This passed from scrub and open savannah forest to the south (10 samples) into closed tropical forest commencing at the equator (6 samples). At most sites there was a limited time available and there was also human disturbance. The most obvious change was the increased fraction of Nymphalidae in the forested area (Table 1). The pattern in the Leech collection fits well with the African tropical forest facies. The Leech butterflies could serve as a useful historic record for a comparison with contemporary data, both local (*e.g.*, Norman *et al.* 2019; Anon. n.d.) and more generally (*e.g.*, Ramírez-Restrepo & MacGregor-Fors 2017).

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF SPECIES IN EIGHT BUTTERFLY GROUPS COLLECTED BY LEECH. DATA FOR SIERRA LEONE AND THE GARDEN ARE FROM OWEN (1971), A MUCH LONGER LIST FOR SIERRA LEONE IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE (ANONYMOUS, N.D.). THE CONGO DATA ARE MEANS FOR 6 AND 10 SITES RESPECTIVELY LISTED IN COOK (1971)

	Leech	**Owen Garden**	**Sierra Leone**	**Congo north**	**Congo south**
Papilionidae	6	12	19	5.3	2.3
Pieridae	4	15	22	5.8	4.2
Danainae	0	3	5	1.0	1.6
Acraeini	16	24	26	7.2	3.6
Nymphalidae	53	87	127	36.0	6.7
Libytheidae	0	1	1	0.5	0.2
Lycaenidae	14			5.8	2.4
Hesperiidae	3			1.3	0.5

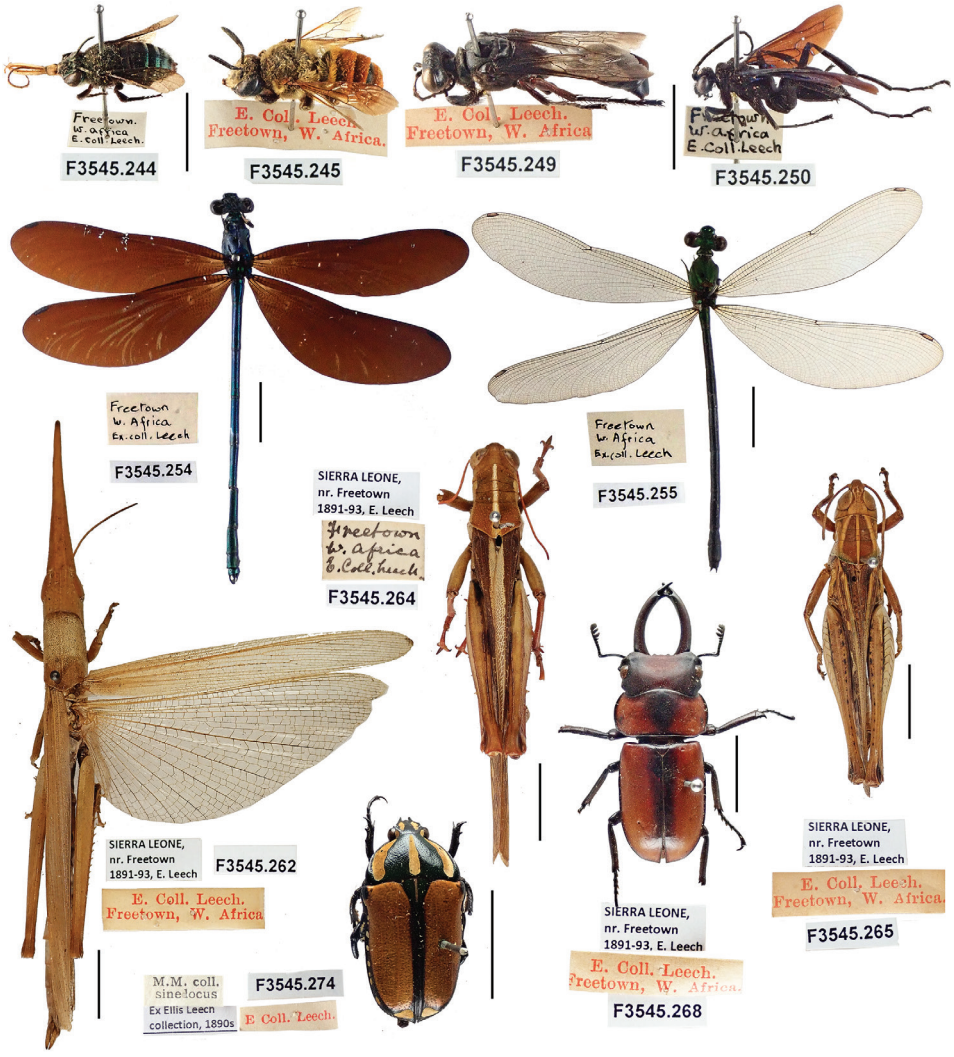


Photo: © The Manchester Museum

Fig. 4. — Insects of various orders collected by Ellis Leech in Sierra Leone: bees (Apidae; F3545.244–245), digger wasp (Sphecidae; F3545.249), spider wasp (Pompilidae; F3545.250), Western Bluewing (*Sapho ciliata*, male and female; F3545.254–255), locusts (Acrididae; F3545.262–265), rose chafer (*Gnathocera trivittata*, Scarabaeidae; F3545.274), and stag beetle (*Prosopocoelus* sp., male; F3545.268). Scale bar = 1cm.

The moths appear to be an incidental addition (Table 3). Among the butterflies listed in Table 2 is a single individual belonging to the moth family Zygaenidae. This is *Cyclosia midamia* (Herrich-Schaffer, 1883) (Fig. 5: F3545.201) a Mullerian mimic of distasteful butterflies and, as such, might reasonably have been included for comparison with its mimics. However, it is not known in Africa. The genus and the distasteful butterfly families its members resemble are Asian, extending south to Australia. This specimen had two original, hand-written labels which are difficult to

TABLE 2. BUTTERFLIES IN THE LEECH COLLECTION

Name	Family	Specimens	Species
Graphium (Arisbe) *latreillianus* (Godart, 1819)	Papilionidae	1	
Graphium (Graphium) *policenes* (Cramer, 1775)	Papilionidae	2	
Graphium (Arisbe) *tynderaeus* (Fabricius, 1793)	Papilionidae	1	
Papilio (Druryia) *chrapkowskoides nurettini* Koçak, 1983	Papilionidae	1	
Papilio (Druryia) *zalmoxis* Hewitson, 1864	Papilionidae	1	
Papilio (Princeps) *phorcas* Cramer, 1775	Papilionidae	3	6
Appias sabina (Felder, 1865)	Pieridae	1	
Eurema hecabe solifera (Butler, 1875)	Pieridae	1	
Mylothris chloris Fabricius, 1775	Pieridae	1	
Nepheronia argia (Fabricius, 1775)	Pieridae	1	4
Citrinophila erastus (Hewitson, 1866)	Lycaenidae	12	
Cerautola ceraunia (Hewitson, 1873)	Lycaenidae	1	
Cerautola crowleyi (Sharpe, 1890)	Lycaenidae	2	
Cerautola miranda (Staudinger, 1889)	Lycaenidae	1	
Stempfferia cercene (Hewitson, 1873)	Lycaenidae	1	
Axiocerses harpax (Fabricius, 1775)	Lycaenidae	1	
Myrina silenus (Fabricius, 1775)	Lycaenidae	2	
Paradeudorix eleala Stempffer, 1964	Lycaenidae	3	
Anthene lysicles Hewitson, 1874	Lycaenidae	8	
Uranothauma falkensteini Dewitz, 1879	Lycaenidae	1	
Phlyaria cyara (Hewitson, 1876)	Lycaenidae	1	
Azanus isis (Drury, 1773)	Lycaenidae	3	
Eicochrysops hippocrates (Fabricius, 1793)	Lycaenidae	1	
Paradeudorix sp. (undetermined)	Lycaenidae	1	14
Aterica galene (Brown, 1776)	Nymphalidae	1	
Bebearia arcidius Fabricius, 1793	Nymphalidae	1	
Bebearia demetra (Godart, 1824)	Nymphalidae	3	
Bebearia laetitia (Plotz, 1880)	Nymphalidae	1	
Bebearia phantasina (Staudinger, 1891)	Nymphalidae	2	
Catuna crithea (Drury, 1773)	Nymphalidae	1	
Charaxes eupale (Drury, 1782)	Nymphalidae	1	
Charaxes lucretius (Cramer, 1775)	Nymphalidae	1	
Charaxes mycerina (Godart, 1824)	Nymphalidae	2	
Charaxes smaragdalis butleri Rothschild, 1900	Nymphalidae	1	
Charaxes zingha (Stoll, 1780)	Nymphalidae	1	
Cymothoe caenis (Drury, 1773)	Nymphalidae	4	
Cymothoe egesta (Cramer, 1775)	Nymphalidae	9	
Cymothoe mabillei Overlaet, 1944	Nymphalidae	1	
Cymothoe sangaris (Godart, 1820)	Nymphalidae	2	
Elymniopsis bammakoo (Westwood, 1851)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra afzelii Felder & Felder, 1867	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra ceres (Fabricius, 1775)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra cyparissa (Cramer, 1775)	Nymphalidae	2	
Euphaedra diffusa Gaede, 1916	Nymphalidae	2	
Euphaedra eleus (Drury, 1782)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra eupalus (Fabricius, 1781)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra francina (Godart, 1824)	Nymphalidae	4	
Euphaedra harpalyce (Cramer, 1777)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra hewitsoni Hecq, 1974	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra (?) *inanum* Butler, 1873	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra judith Weymer, 1892	Nymphalidae	2	
Euphaedra medon (Linnaeus, 1763)	Nymphalidae	4	
Euphaedra retusa Butler, 1871	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra sp. (*ravola* species group)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euphaedra themis (Hubner, 1806)	Nymphalidae	1	

TABLE 2. *Cont.*

Name	Family	Specimens	Species
Euphaedra vetusta (Butler, 1871)	Nymphalidae	3	
Euphaedra xypete (Hewitson, 1865)	Nymphalidae	6	
Euphaedra zampa (Westwood, 1850)	Nymphalidae	2	
Euriphene aridatha Hewitson, 1866	Nymphalidae	1	
Euriphene amica Hewitson, 1871	Nymphalidae	1	
Euriphene incerta Aurivillius, 1912	Nymphalidae	3	
Euriphene leonis Aurivillius, 1899	Nymphalidae	4	
Euriphene simplex Staudinger, 1891	Nymphalidae	3	
Euriphene veronica (Stoll, 1780)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euriphene sp. (undetermined)	Nymphalidae	1	
Euryphura togoensis Suffert, 1904	Nymphalidae	2	
Heteronympha merope (Fabricius, 1775)	Nymphalidae	1	
Junonia orithyia (Linnaeus, 1758)	Nymphalidae	2	
Junonia sophia (Fabricius, 1793)	Nymphalidae	1	
Junonia villida (Fabricius, 1787)	Nymphalidae	1	
Junonia terea (Drury, 1773)	Nymphalidae	3	
Junonia octavia (Cramer, 1777)	Nymphalidae	3	
Junonia pelarga (Fabricius, 1775)	Nymphalidae	7	
Phalanta phalantha aethiopica (Rothschild & Jordan, 1903)	Nymphalidae	2	
Acraea caecillia (Fabricius, 1781)	Nymphalidae*	1	
Acraea endoscota le Doux, 1928	Nymphalidae*	1	
Acraea egina Cramer, 1775	Nymphalidae*	2	
Acraea encedon (Linnaeus, 1758)	Nymphalidae*	2	
Acraea epaea (Cramer, 1779)	Nymphalidae*	6	
Acraea (?) *excisa* Butler, 1874	Nymphalidae*	1	
Acraea peneleos Ward, 1871	Nymphalidae*	3	
Acraea perenna Doubleday, 1847	Nymphalidae*	1	
Acraea pseudegina Westwood, 1852	Nymphalidae*	2	
Acraea rogersi Hewitson, 1873	Nymphalidae*	12	
Acraea serena Fabricius, 1775	Nymphalidae*	1	
Acraea quirina (Fabricius, 1781)	Nymphalidae*	9	
Acraea (?) *umbra* Drury, 1782	Nymphalidae*	2	
Bematistes alcinoe (Felder& Felder, 1865)	Nymphalidae*	8	
Bematistes macaria (Fabricius, 1793)	Nymphalidae*	3	
Bematistes vestalis (Felder& Felder, 1865)	Nymphalidae*	2	
Bicyclus sp.	Nymphalidae**	7	67
Platylesches galesa Hewitson, 1877	Hesperiidae	3	1
Cyclosia midamia (Herrich-Schaffer, 1883)	Zygaenidae	1	1
Total		**221**	**93**

Key: * Acraeini; ** Satyrini

TABLE 3. AFRICAN MOTHS

Family	Sub-Family	Specimens
Zygaenidae	Calcosiinae	1
Uraniidae	Microniinae	5
Erebidae	Aganainae	2
Erebidae	Arctiinae	1
Erebidae	Lymantriinae	2
Notodontidae	Notodontinae	4
Saturnidae	Saturniinae	2
Sphingidae	Macroglossinae	3
Eupterotidae	Hilbridinae	3
Total		**23**

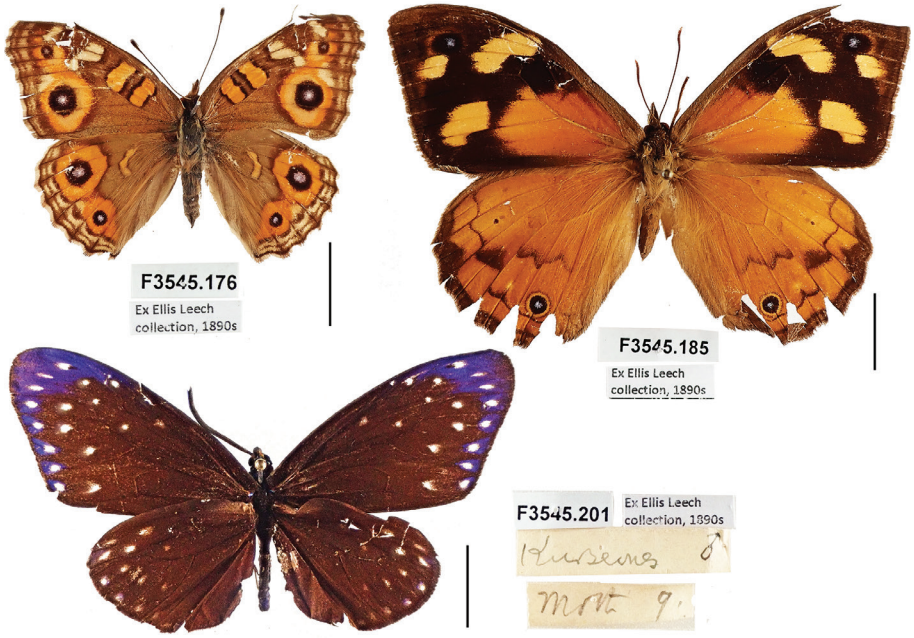


Photo: © The Manchester Museum

Fig. 5. — Non-African lepidopterans in the collection of Ellis Leech: Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*; F3545.176), Common Brown (*Heteronympha merope*; F3545.185) and Day-Flying Moth of the family Zygaenidae (*Cyclosia midamia*; F3545.201). Scale bar = 1cm.

interpret. One reads 'Moth 9', supplying no useful information. The other may read 'Kurseong'. That is a location in north-eastern India, popular with the colonial British because of its mild climate. It is within the range of the species but not of the Leech family. Some of the butterflies also appear to be mis-identified or misplaced. Two species of nymphalid (Fig. 5), *Heteronympha merope* (F3545.185) and *Junonia villida* (F3545.176) are represented. These are Australian and south-east Asian. While nothing suggests that Ellis visited any of these regions, his father could have been in a position to obtain them. Examination of the accession list of cultural objects presented to the Museum shows that there may have been opportunities for material owned by different members of the family to have become mixed. In passing, it may be noted that *Junonia villida* has previously been reported from another odd place. In the 18th century an example illustrated by Eleazer Albin was supposed to have been caught on Hampstead Heath and therefore became known for a while as Albin's Hampstead Eye (see Vane-Wright & Tennent 2007).

The bulk of John Joseph's material was received in 1901, the year of his death. There are 167 items listed as from New Guinea or one of the islands close to it. Thirty are from Australia, including nine boomerangs. There are also nine objects labelled as African, of which one is listed as from Sierra Leone, seven from West Africa and one simply Africa. In addition, the Museum received 12 items in 1936, eight of them boomerangs. No donor's name is attached. Finally in 1941/42 the Museum received a Japanese object, one from Africa and three from New Guinea. These latter are labelled 'probably Aremoa' as is one that arrived in 1901. This time

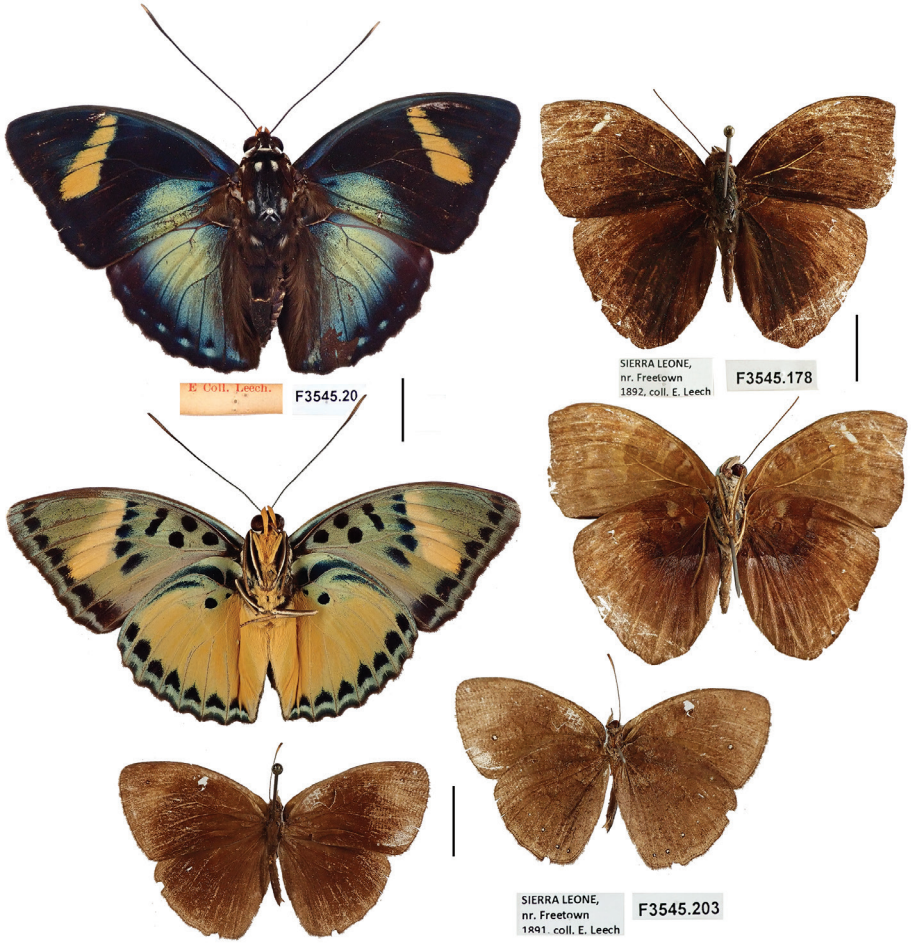


Photo: © The Manchester Museum

Fig. 6. — Some undetermined butterflies of the family Nymphalidae from the collection of Ellis Leech (upperwing and underwing colour patterns): *Euphaedra* sp. (F3545.20), *Euriphene* sp. (F3545.178) and *Bicyclus* sp. (F3545.203). Scale bar = 1cm.

the donor was E. Bosdin Leech. It seems, therefore, that there was some sharing between family members. Finally, in this list of queries a mysterious object acquired by the Manchester Museum is a dried female tarantula (G663, *Mygale* sp.). This is recorded in the Museum's Register Book as being collected from 'Cape of G[ood] Hope' (South Africa, no date of collecting) and accessioned on 11 January 1894. The donor was a Mrs Leech. Whether or not this was John Joseph's widow is unknown.

CONCLUSION

Collections of natural history specimens are useful to assist users of museums with identification, as well as with revealing particular records of the species involved, and for that reason efforts are made to keep the nomenclature up to date and, of course, to establish their origin. This particular segment is of interest largely

for its back story, the details of which have not yet all been uncovered. Coincidentally a namesake, John Henry Leech (1862–1900) lived in the same area close to Manchester with a family background in the cotton industry and collected Lepidoptera which ended up in a museum, this time the British Museum (John Henry Leech n.d.). These contemporary Leeches are not known to be related. J.H. came from a much more affluent family living in Gorse Hall, Dukinfield, near the Tame. They had established themselves by building cotton mills and a gas-making plant to light the mills and to sell gas to others. That background allowed J.H. Leech to live the life of a gentleman, employ agents to enlarge his world-wide holding, to author several books and numerous papers and to describe over 80 new species. A catalogue of his Palaearctic Lepidoptera comprising eighteen thousand specimens in eleven hundred species was prepared by Richard South (1902). Families such as these are part of Manchester's history. The collections they made constitute an essential scientific resource of the museums where they were deposited.

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