

## THE «LESTE» AND MIGRATION

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On 17th August 1966 a hot easterly wind started to blow in Madeira and continued until the late night of 19th. This wind, from the African deserts, is known on Madeira as the «Leste». The temperature rose sharply and reached an observed peak of 86° F. indoors; it must have been considerably hotter outside.

On the second night (18th August) there was a notable increase in insect activity around the street lamps and lighted windows.

I collected a number of small coleoptera and other insects and there were large numbers of ants patrolling the lamp standards in search of small arthropods.

Among the lepidoptera I took specimens of *Utethesia pulchella* Linn. (2), *Laphygma exigua* Hübn. (many) and *Plusia acuta* Walker (3), none of which I had seen during the previous two weeks despite having collected every night.

It seems likely that these three species, and no doubt many others arrived as a direct result of the strong easterly wind.

The heat would probably account for their presence in the upper air streams by reason of convection currents at the point of origin.

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