

ABSTRACT

A study is made of the biology of the representatives of the seven genera, containing twenty-one species, of the family Pieridae (Insecta-Lenidoptera) in Jamaica and the life-histories of twenty are described.

This study includes the first descriptions of the immature stages of Ascia josephina (Latreille), Eurera dina (Poey) and Eurema adamsi (Lathy), and completes the first description of Kricogonia castalia (Fabricius). The life-histories of ten species or subspecies from Jamaica are described for the first time and the other nine life-histories are completed in greater detail than previously.

The bionomics of the adults of all the Jamaican Pieridae is studied and investigations are made into adult colour variations in eight species from four of the genera. Environmental factors are shown to be largely responsible for colour variations in five of these species, and genetic variation for producing colour forms in one species.

An assessment of the taxonomic characters of the immature and adult stages, together with experimental results, is used in determining the systematics of the Jamaican Pieridae and recommendations are made for the modification of the existing classification at generic, sub-generic and sub-specific levels. These recommendations take into consideration the existing classification of those species and subspecies which occur elsewhere in the New World.