

## ABSTRACT

### **Taxonomy of the Jamaican Owlet Moths (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)**

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This thesis marked the beginning of Lepidoptera taxonomic research done in the Department of Life Sciences. The Noctuidae, the largest group of the Lepidoptera, was selected based on its agricultural pest significance and the guarantee that catch-night quantities would support a research program. 15 sub-families, 127 genera and 229 species of the Noctuidae of Jamaica have been described in this research project. A current checklist of the group, though not exhaustive, includes synonyms, taxonomic keys, 226 compliment colour photographs of the adults and illustrations of male and female genitalia of significant species.

The taxonomic research is prefaced by a comprehensive look at the history of taxonomic work worldwide and in Jamaica. The latter being limited to the butterflies and Sphinx moths as far the Lepidoptera is concerned.

Keywords: Alison Alicia Watson; Noctuidae; Checklist; Taxonomic keys, Jamaica.