

# ZOOTAXA

1900

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## A checklist of the satyrine genus *Erebia* (Lepidoptera) (1758–2006)

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“These ‘Grass *Erebias*’ are those that puzzle one in the field and even in the cabinet perhaps, more than any others”

Thomas Algernon Chapman

1898, A review of the genus *Erebia* ... p. 213

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### Abstract

Since BCS Warren’s seminal Monograph of the circumpolar satyrine butterfly genus *Erebia* Dalman, 1816, was published in 1936, more than 320 new names and some 200 papers dealing wholly or in large part with the genus have been published. A modern checklist of more than 1,300 names proposed for butterflies of the genus *Erebia* (*sensu stricto*), all of which have been checked at source, is presented together with the source publication and type locality (TL). Also presented is a bibliography of 1,200 published items concerning the genus. The checklist covers the period 1758–2006; such names proposed and papers published as have been noted after the 31st of December 2006 are also included.

### Introduction

Species of the satyrine genus *Erebia* Dalman, 1816, constitute a significant element of alpine and high-latitude butterfly diversity in the Palaearctic and Nearctic Regions, and are of increasing interest to ecologists as model organisms for assessing the impact of climate change. It is distinctly possible that some species will retreat northwards or upwards as temperatures rise. These sombre—some might say drab—butterflies (figs 1–7), the subject of many hundreds of papers comprising many thousands of printed pages, provide a challenge to taxonomists. Although they figure significantly in the general works of early authors, it was not until the late 19th century that Thomas Chapman (1842–1921) and Henry Elwes (1846–1922) made serious efforts to place the confusing number of similar butterflies in some sort of systematic sequence (Elwes, 1898; Chapman, 1898b). However, it is the work of Brisbane Charles Somerville Warren (1887–1979) (figs 8–10)