

collecting. Their habits are difficult to study and have not been well worked out, but as far as known, they provision their nests with small to medium-sized weevils.

In the records following, I have taken their continental distribution and records of prey from the Synoptic Catalogue of Hymenoptera.

Cerceris californica Cresson. Recorded from "Southwestern States". We have three males from Kamloops taken during June and July. No prey records given.

Cerceris nigrescens Smith. Recorded from the northern States and southern Canada, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. We have 25 specimens of *C. nigrescens* taken from the dry belt, from Kelowna to the Chilcotin and from Royal Oak near Victoria; they were captured from May to August. Prey is recorded as (a) *Hyperodes delumbis* (Gyll) of which we have no specimens; but a close relative *H. interstitialis* (Dietz) occurs in the Nicola Valley; (b) *Sitona hispidula* (Fab.) which is common all over the dry belt; (c) *Gymnaetron* sp., of which genus we have *G. tetrum*, the mullein weevil, from Kamloops and Chilliwack; (d) *G. antirrhini* Payk. which occurs in Vancouver.

Cerceris sextoides Banks. Listed as occurring from Washington to California. No prey is recorded for this species. We have 41 specimens, all from Kamloops, collected during the summer months.

Encerceris flavocincta Cresson. Recorded from the Rocky Mountains and the West at 2000 ft. and above. We have 14 specimens taken from May to July, from Oliver to the Chilcotin and two males from near Nanaimo on tide-water. This apparently, is a new and unusual altitudinal record. The prey is listed as *Dyslobius lecontei* Casey, of which we have only two specimens, both from Victoria; but *D. verrucifer* Casey occurs all over the dry belt and *D. granicollis* (Lec.) at Langley, Victoria and Cowichan.

The gift species from Professor Scullen are a male and female each of *Encerceris montana* Cresson, *E. canaliculata* (Say) and *E. tricolor* Cockerell, of which none has apparently been recorded from Canada.

Doubtless several more species will be recorded for this Province, but at present I record only four native ones and three from outside British Columbia.

THE LIFE HISTORY OF *EUTHYATIRA SEMICIRCULARIS* GRT. (LEPIDOPTERA: THYATIRIDAE)

GEORGE A. HARDY

Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.

The handsome moth *Euthyatira semicircularis* Grt. turns up occasionally at light in May and June, but is by no means common on southern Vancouver Island, as far as my experience goes.

It has a wing expanse of 40 to 45 mm. Its colour is a blend of various shades of grey and brown, with a series of dark semicircular lines crossing the fore-wings, concave towards the wing bases, a characteristic which

has evidently prompted the specific name. A white basal patch and a light grey area on the wing tips contrasts with the prevailing soft greys and browns. When at rest, with the wings closely applied to the body, the moth resembles a piece of dead, broken-off twig so closely as to make detection difficult even for the practised eye.

In British Columbia this moth appears to be confined to southern

Vancouver Island and parts of the adjacent mainland, north to Lillooet and west to Fraser Mills.

Ovum. Thirteen white ova were found on a leaf of *Alnus oregona* at Deep Cove, Saanich, Vancouver Island, on July 3, 1954. They were spaced irregularly in a group. Length 1 by .5 mm., elongate, slightly flattened, coarsely ribbed and cross-ribbed. Hatched on July 6. Larvae did not eat egg-shells.

Larva. 1st Instar. Length 2 mm. Colour snow-white throughout. Rests with anterior and posterior ends of body raised, head drawn in. Feeds on *Cornus occidentalis*. At 7 days the colour is white with suffused green showing through body wall owing to ingested food.

2nd Instar. July 16. Length 7 mm. Colour as before.

3rd Instar. Aug. 4. Length 12 mm. Head, pale brown with a black patch on each side of face on which the eyes are situated. Body, T. 1 with 4 black dots on each side of dorsum. Colour off white, broadly suffused with translucent green. Body slightly tapering towards posterior. Growth in early stages very slow. Hides in

folded leaf by day, and comes out to feed by night. When disturbed it curls up sideways.

August 18. Length 20 mm.; no moult observed.

4th Instar. Aug. 31. Length 20 mm. Head pale pink. Eyes on a black background. Body, fuscous stippled on a white base, shading into a dull white on the underside; a dark ill-defined dorsal line. Legs and prolegs dull white, matching the underside.

5th Instar. Sept. 12. Length 40 mm. Head, flesh colour, cervical plate dark brown. Body, dull white with fuscous green showing through, heavily sprinkled with white dots. A suffused dark green dorsal line; spiracles orange ringed with black. Larva spun a light cocoon between a leaf and the side of glass container and pupated on Sept. 21.

Pupa. Size 15 by 5 mm. Dull black with a purple tinge, pleura light brown integument finely wrinkled and pitted, except the last two segments which are shiny. Cremaster a stout projection tipped with two thick and several thinner and shorter hooked spines.

Imago. Emerged June 8, 1955.

THE LIFE HISTORY OF *ZENOPHLEPS LIGNICOLORATA VICTORIA* TAYL. (LEPIDOPTERA: GEOMETRIDAE)

GEORGE A. HARDY

Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.

The dainty little geometer *Zenophleps lignicolorata victoria* Tayl. has been considered somewhat of a rarity in the Victoria district, but during the past three years the writer has found it frequently in its haunts, at the right season of the year, in Saanich and west to Goldstream, Vancouver Island. It is associated with open woods of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. From lack of information on the early stages it was at first thought to feed on trees, especially Garry oak, as it was frequently found

resting on the grass at the foot of this species. It lay with the wings partially closed, flat out, not held erect over the body, and quite conspicuously in the open. Only on dull days or early in the day was it thus to be found.

On other occasions this moth was found in similar situations in fir woods, resting on moss rather than grass.

Z. l. victoria measures 30 mm. across the expanded wings, the colour of