

**ANNOTATED LIST OF FOREST INSECTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
PART VI — *PLUSIA* SPP. (NOCTUIDAE)¹**

D. A. ROSS² and D. EVANS³

Although some species of this genus of defoliators are common, none has been recorded in "outbreak proportions". Unlike most other genera of the Noctuidae, *Plusia* (*Syngrapha* and *Autographa*) larvae have, in addition to the anal prolegs, only two pairs of ventral prolegs. The larvae are green, with stripes and longitudinal strips of minute black spinules. Most species have black pinacula, at least on upper portions of the body. *Plusia* spp. overwinter as small larvae.

P. rectangula Kby. *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Abies lasiocarpa*, *Picea engelmanni*, *P. glauca*, *Pinus monticola* (1 record); Southern B.C. and Central Interior. **Larva:** 1 inch; fairly broad white addorsal and subdorsal stripes, the addorsal slightly broader than the subdorsal on central abdominal segments; spiracular stripe, white, edged dorsally with cream.

P. alias Ottol. *Picea engelmanni*, *P. glauca*; Southern B.C. and Central Interior. **Larva:** length, 1½ inches; addorsal, subdorsal and spiracular stripes, white, the subdorsal wider than the addorsal.

P. sp. nr. alias. *Picea glauca*, *P. engelmanni*; Southern and Central Interior. In correspondence, Hardwick stated the following about this form: "... while superficially resembling *alias*, they do not appear to be conspecific."

P. celsa Hy. Edw. *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Abies lasiocarpa*, *Abies grandis*,

Picea glauca (1 record); Southern B.C. and Central Interior. **Larva:** addorsal, subdorsal, and spiracular stripes, white, the addorsal broader than the subdorsal although it may appear subequal; fairly prominent black pinacula.

P. angulidens Sm. *Abies lasiocarpa*, Penticton.

P. selecta Wlk. *Picea glauca*, *P. engelmanni*, *P. sitchensis*, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, *Abies lasiocarpa*, *Pinus contorta*, *Tsuga heterophylla* (2 records); Central Interior and Southern B.C.; common.

Larva: length 1½ inches; head pale green, faintly dotted with brown; body uniform bright green with narrow white addorsal and subdorsal stripes, of equal width on the abdomen; addorsals very narrow on thorax; spiracular — subspiracular stripe, cream; small black pinacula. (One seta immediately above each meso- and meta-thoracic leg on *selecta*, two on *celsa* and *alias* [two also on *rectangula*]), McGuffin, 1954.

P. epigaea Grt. Two fully grown larvae have been collected and reared, one from *Populus tremuloides*, Cranbrook, the other from *Pinus contorta*, Salmon Arm. Jones (1951) notes the host as *Vaccinium* spp. **Larva:** 1 inch; head, pale green, black lateral line on head under ocelli; body pale green; addorsal, subdorsal (narrower than addorsal) lines and spiracular stripe, white; small pinacula, white not visible to naked eye; a single seta above each meta- and meso-thoracic leg.

P. ampla Wlk. *Alnus* sp.; Union Bay on V.I., Cultus Lake, and Shuswap Lake.

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References

- Jones, J. R. J. L. 1951. An annotated check list of the macrolepidoptera of British Columbia. Ent. Soc. B.C. Occas. Paper No. 1.
McGuffin, W. C. 1954. Descriptions of larvae of forest insects: *Syngrapha*, *Autographa*. Canad. Ent. 86: 36-39.