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***EURRHYPARA HORTULATA* L. (*URTICATA* L.) ON THE PACIFIC COAST (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE)**

This attractive little moth, which can hardly be confused with anything else in the North American fauna, is native to Europe and temperate east Asia. It ranges from Ireland to the Amur-Ussuri region and Manchuria. It was established in Nova Scotia by 1907 at MacNab's Island and Truro. At present it has a wide range in the Northeast, extending from Newfoundland to Ontario and southward. The moth flies mainly in July, at night, is attracted to light and in the daytime is easily flushed. The main food-plant in Europe is nettle, *Urtica dioica* L., and other plants such as *Marrubium vulgare* L., *Stachys* sp., *Mentha* sp., *Calystegia sepium* Br. and *Ribes* sp. Probably it has other plant hosts also. Little is known about its food plants in North America.

Until now there were no records of *E. hortulata* having been collected on the Pacific coast. There are no specimens from this area in local collections or in the Canadian National Collection at Ottawa.

On 18 June, 1977 a perfect female specimen was seen resting on the ceiling of a living room in East Vancouver. It was in such immaculate condition that it was obvious that it was freshly emerged. Unfortunately, in my excitement, the specimen was somewhat damaged

during capture. Four days later, another perfect specimen, a male, was flushed in the garden and collected. Another was observed in the garden on 23, 26 and 27 June but no further specimens were collected in order to give the species a chance to survive and become established in Vancouver. How the moth arrived in Vancouver will remain a mystery. Most likely the first specimens were introduced last year, deposited eggs and produced moths this year. The host-plant here remains unknown. There are no nettles growing in the vicinity and the nearest place known to me where nettles grow in Vancouver is near the seawall in Stanley Park. There are other possible plant hosts, however, cultivated in our garden, such as *Stachys recta*, at least three different species of *Mentha*, *Calystegia sepium* and *Ribes* sp. The moth may have selected one of those plants on which to lay eggs.

In Europe the larva rolls the leaves or spins them together. The cocoon is spun in a sheltered place, usually under the bark, in autumn. Hibernation takes place as a prepupal larva which pupates in the spring. There is one generation per year. Next June or July should show whether the moth will establish itself in Vancouver or not. Unlike horticulturists and the Plant Protection Division, I hope it will.

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