

# BULLETIN

— OF THE —

## British Columbia Entomological Society

EDITED BY R. V. HARVEY, M. A.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

QUARTERLY

JUNE, 1907

No. 6

### NOTES OF BREEDING LEPIDOPTERA.

By J. W. Cockle, Kaslo, B. C.

#### Part 1—Eggs.

Many standard works have treated of breeding, but there is always scope for publication of facts which have come under the observation of individual collectors, and which may be of interest to others.

Breeders of insects are often confronted with little difficulties, which experience alone can overcome, and a record of such should prove of interest.

One of the first troubles that confronts the breeder is to secure ova from captive females;—in order to do this it is imperative to produce conditions similar to what the insect would find in its wild state, and some of the most striking which have come under observation may be mentioned.

The early-flying Geometers lay their eggs among the flower-buds of their food-plant, the young larvae in their initial stage feeding on the flowers, and when these fade they travel off to the adjacent leaves. A bunch of immature flower-buds introduced into the glass will often induce oviposition, when, if only the leaves are present the same insect will refuse to lay any eggs.

Another condition is found among the day-flying Sphingidae, which fly only in the heat of the sun. These insects when confined must be placed in direct sunlight, as they absolutely refuse to lay when placed even under a slight protective shade. I have confined *Lepisesia* and *Hemaris* in a glass cylinder placed in front of a plate-glass window, where the temperature would be over 120 degrees, and under these conditions they flew continuously and laid freely; but the passing of a thin vapoury cloud over the sun would cause them to settle immediately. As they, in common with most of the Sphingidae, oviposit only when on the wing, room must be provided for them to fly round easily. Direct sunlight must be provided to all moths which fly in the heat of the sun; *Alypia*, *Albuna*, and their allies are all subject to the same conditions.

Many moths which lay their eggs in the crevices of bark must be provided with cracks in the bark of their food-plant in which they can oviposit. *Erannis defoliaria* and probably many of the *Catocalas* and *Synedas* are among this group.

Those which lay their eggs in clusters round twigs, as in the case of *Pseudohazis shastaensis*, must be accommodated with the requisite twig and room.

The majority of the Noctuids and Bombycids will oviposit anywhere, and confining them in a glass jelly-tumbler is usually sufficient to ensure a batch of eggs, but when repeated trials fail in inducing them to lay, the breeder is confronted with the problem of inaugurating conditions similar to those which nature has decreed, and it is in such cases that the study of the habits of the insect and its natural environment may lead the student to a solution of the difficulty.

Another fact must be kept in mind, and that is to feed captive insects. The period of oviposition often lasts several days, and the moth in its natural state feeds between times. Food can be most readily provided by saturating a small ball of cotton in honey and water, which can be suspended by a string in the glass, or a piece of ripe fruit may be used for the same purpose.

#### Part 2 Will Deal With Food-plants and Feeding.

### NOTES OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF INSECTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By R. V. Harvey.

#### Part III.

As I have already pointed out, the increase of warmth which marked the close of the Ice Age drove the exiled Arctic population back towards the North. But many individuals, indeed many entire species, found out that a cooler climate could be reached with much less trouble by an increase, not of latitude, but of altitude.

Accordingly many plants and insects spread slowly up the sides of the Rocky Mountains, driven upwards instead of northwards by constantly rising temperature and dryness of the plains below.

But at whatever height they found a congenial resting place, they would have to struggle for existence with the indigenous population, and many of them must have succumbed. Those, however, which have survived and propagated their kind into our own times, give us a remarkable proof of the truth of our theory of the dispersal of animals and plants as affected by the Glacial Period.

The most striking examples of this "stranding," as it is called, of species on mountain tops are found on the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Here many plants are identical with those of Labrador, but do not occur between the two places; while among the insects the distribution is most interesting and instructive. Dr. Scudder, in a paper published 1874, says: "In ascending Mt. Washington we pass, as it were, from New Hampshire to northern Labrador. On leaving the forests, we come first upon animals recalling those of the northern shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the coast of Labrador opposite Newfoundland; and when we have attained the summit we find insects which represent the fauna of Atlantic Labrador and the southern extremity of Greenland."

But there is another point about the insect fauna of Mt. Washington that is not so easily explained. It is now quite simple to find a reason for the resemblance between the insects of New Hampshire peaks and those of Labrador; but we must also find a reason for the fact that many Mt. Washington species are found either in Europe on the east, or in British Columbia in the extreme west, or in both these localities, without being found to any extent in the intervening country.

Let me take some concrete examples from the Order Diptera. In the family Syrphidae, as listed in Prof. Aldrich's catalogue of N. A. Diptera, there are, by my reckoning, forty-four species found on the White Mountains. Again, in the same list there are thirty-four European species given as found in North America. No less than twelve of the latter are found on Mt. Washington, while out of the whole sixty-six species from the two localities—Europe and White Mountains—forty-six, or 75 per cent., occur on the Pacific Coast. And it is to be borne in mind that very few indeed of these 46 are found right across the continent, as a glance at the catalogue will show. In the genus *Syrphus*, of eight species occurring on Mt. Washington, seven are British Columbia species, and the other is found in Alaska. Of our common *Lasiophthicus pyrastris* Baron von Osten Sacken said, in 1877: "It has never been found east of the Mississippi. The question how it got to these (western) regions is an interesting problem."

The species in question is found in Europe and the Pacific States.

In the same paper, entitled "Western Diptera," the author has some interesting remarks on resemblances between the Western fauna and the fauna of Northern and Central Europe, the species being foreign to the fauna of the Eastern United States, and, to quote his own words, "they are the more strange, as, far from being favored by any similitude of meteoric or botanic conditions, they seem to exist in spite of differences in these conditions. He is here speaking of California, whereas in British Columbia, the meteoric and botanic conditions are assuredly similar in a marked degree to those of Europe. I append some examples given by Osten Sacken, and a few which have come under my own notice:—

#### LEPIDOPTERA.

Genus *Parnassius*: Sweden, Alps, British Columbia and Rockies (not east of Mississippi).

*Papilio machaon*: Europe, almost same as *P. zolicaon*, British Columbia and California.

*Brenthis chariclea*: Lapland, Greenland, Labrador, British Columbia mountains.

*Brenthis freija*: Siberia, Norway, Labrador, British Columbia mountains.

*Pamphila mandan*: Europe, White Mountains, British Columbia.

*Plusia gamma*: Europe, nearly same as *P. californica* of the west coast.

*Anarta melanopa*: Europe, Arctic America, British Columbia mountains.

*Carsia paludata*: Europe, Arctic America, British Columbia mountains.

*Mesoleuca silaceata*: Europe, Montana, British Columbia.

#### DIPTERA.

Genus *Silvius* (*Tabanidae*): Europe, Western States (not east of Mississippi).

Genus *Elliptera* (*Tipulidae*): Europe, California (not eastern).

#### NEUROPTERA.

Genus *Rhaphidia*: Europe, California (not in Atlantic States).

#### ORTHOPTERA.

Genus *Locusta*: Europe, Western region (not in Atlantic States).

(To be concluded.)

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, April 25, 1907.

Dear Mr. Harvey:—

I have just received your most interesting Quarterly, Part No. 5, and have read with much pleasure your notes on the distribution of insects in British Columbia. I am moved, however, to write to you in reference to a statement in your second line, viz.: that your members "will doubtless now have their setting boards in full swing."

Now as a matter of fact I wonder if your members do really swing their setting boards, or know what an excellent plan that is to keep off the attacks of some of the entomologists' worst enemies, museum pests and mice, while specimens are drying on the boards? Mr. Arthur Gibson, my assistant, taught me one of the best "dodges" I know of for this purpose, and it simply consists of screwing into one end of your setting boards a little hook by which the board, when covered with mounted specimens, may be hung up against the wall out of the way of harm by the above pests and many accidents. The details of how the board is hung, or what it is hung to, may of course be changed according to convenience, but the main idea that they should be swung up out of the way I have found of very great value, and think possibly it may also be a suggestion which will be acceptable to some of your readers. With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

JAMES FLETCHER.

Smithsonian Institute, United States National Museum.  
Washington, D. C., April 29, 1907.

My Dear Sir:—

I noted the remarks on *Xylomiges* by you in the Bull. B. C. Ent. Soc., which you kindly sent me, and am stimulated to send you some notes on them, which you are at liberty to publish if you should care to.

Sir George Hampson has lately (1905) classified these species under the new genus *Xylomania*, proposed by him. He makes four divisions, as follows:

1. Male Antennae, pectinate, including the species *behrensiana*, *erythrolita* and *hiemalis*.
2. Male Antennae, with short branches, tip simple. Species: *pallidior*, *peritalis* and *cognata*.
3. Male Antennae, serrate fasciculate. Species: *rubrica*, *simplex*, *indurata*, *curialis*, *candida*, *dolosa* and *perlubens*.
4. Male Antennae, ciliated. Species: *pulehella*, *alternane* and *patalis*.

Now there appear to be two errors in this (excluding *peritalis* and *alternans*, of which I have no specimens), namely *rubrica* and *simplex*. *Rubrica* has the antennae ciliate, and should fall with *pulehella*, as you rightly place it. The two are probably varieties of one species. Hampson's error was probably due to his having only female specimens before him in this case. *Simplex* has the antennae with short branches, and should fall with *pallidior*. How Hampson came to place it as he did I cannot see, since he figures the male antennae showing the short branches. The structure is peculiar, the pectinations being on one side only, the other side being serrate fasciculate; but the same structure obtains in *pallidior* and *cognata*, so it ought not to have caused trouble.

The B. C. species should be listed as follows:

Genus, *Xylomania* Hampson.

1. *hiemalis* Grote.
2. *simplex* Walker, *pallidior* Smith, *cognata* Smith.
3. *caudida* Smith, *dolosa* Grote, *perlubens* Grote.
4. *rubrica* Harvey, *pulehella* Smith, *patalis* Grote.

I wish some one of your Society would raise and compare the larvae of these species. Eggs could be obtained in spring, and the larvae easily fed, no doubt.

Very truly yours,

Harrison G. Dyar.

## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LIST

## Coleoptera. Family Cerambycidae.

The "Long-horns" are remarkably well represented in this Province probably exceeding in number of species any other family of our beetles. This is accounted for by the fact that the larvae are most all wood-borers; they live chiefly in the heart-wood, few of them boring in the sap-wood of living trees. Though very destructive to shade-trees in the East, few of our species can be classed as serious pests. The Western species seem to be very distinct from the Eastern, as is evidenced by the fact that of all the species recorded in this list only four are recorded in New Jersey lists. (The numbers are from Henshaw's List).

<b>Ergates</b> Serv.	
5950 <i>spiculatus</i> Lec.	Wellington, Vancouver, Vernon
<b>Prionus</b> Geoff.	
5961 <i>californicus</i> Mots	Victoria
<b>Tragosoma</b> Serv.	
5967 <i>harrisii</i> Lec.	Vernon
<b>Asemum</b> Esch.	
5970 <i>atrum</i> Esch	Island; Lower Mainland; Queen Charlotte Island
<b>Nothorhina</b> Redt.	
5973 <i>aspera</i> Lec.	British Columbia
<b>Criocephalus</b> Muls.	
5974 <i>productus</i> Lec.	Victoria, Vancouver
5976 <i>asperatus</i> Lec.	Victoria, Vancouver
5979 <i>nubilus</i> Lec.	
<b>Tethropium</b> Kby.	
5981 <i>velutinum</i> Lec.	Wellington; Vancouver
5982 <i>cinnamopterum</i> Kby	Wellington
<b>Opsimus</b> Thom.	
5983 <i>quadrilineatus</i> Mann	Victoria, Queen Charlotte Island
<b>Hyloptrupes</b> Serv.	
5992 <i>ligneus</i> Fab.	Island, Lower Mainland, Vernon
<b>Phymatodes</b> Muls.	
5995 <i>thoracicus</i> Muls	British Columbia
6002 <i>dimidiatus</i> Kby.	Harrison River
6003 <i>vulneratus</i> Lec.	
6005 <i>decussatus</i> Lec.	Victoria
6006 <i>nitidus</i> Lec.	Victoria, Wellington
<b>Merium</b> Kby.	
6007 <i>proteus</i> Kby.	
<b>Callidium</b> Fab.	
6009 <i>janthinum</i> Lec.	British Columbia
6013 <i>vile</i> Lec.	Victoria
<b>Eumichthys</b> Lec.	
6089 <i>oedipus</i> Lec.	Wellington
<b>Molorchus</b> Fab.	
6099 <i>longicollis</i> Lec.	Wellington
<b>Rosalia</b> Serv.	
6113 <i>funebri</i> Mots	Island; Lower Mainland
<b>Callichroma</b> Latr.	
6117 <i>melancholicum</i> Chev	Victoria
<b>Clytus</b> Laich.	
6117 <i>marginicolis</i> Lap	Wellington
<b>Xylotrechus</b> Chev.	
6183 <i>undulatus</i> Say	Island; Lower Mainland; Vernon
6184 <i>annosus</i> Say	Harrison River; Vernon
6189 <i>planifrons</i> Les	Wellington
6185 <i>nauticus</i> Mann	
6190 <i>obliteratus</i> Lec.	Victoria, Wellington
<b>Neoclytus</b> Thom.	
6197 <i>conjunctus</i> Lec.	"B. C."
<b>Clytanthus</b> Thom.	
6207 <i>uricola</i> Oliv	"B. C."
<b>Atimia</b> Hald.	
6219 <i>dorsalis</i> Lec.	Vancouver
<b>Desmocerus</b> Serv.	
6223 <i>cribripennis</i> Horn	Harrison R., Vancouver, Chilliwack
<b>Necydalis</b> Linn.	
<i>laevicollis</i> Les.	Victoria, Wellington, Vancouver
<b>Pyrotrichus</b> Lec.	
6229 <i>vitticollis</i> Lec.	Victoria
<b>Leptalia</b> Lec.	
6230 <i>macilenta</i> Mann	"B. C."
<b>Rhagium</b> Fab.	
6232 <i>lineatum</i> Oliv.	Wellington; Lower Mainland; Queen Charlotte Is.

<b>Toxotus Serv.</b>	
6239 flavolineatus Lec.	Shawnigan, Hope Mts.
6240 vettiger Rond	Vancouver(?)
6244 vestitus Hald	Victoria, Goldstream
6246 obtusus Lec.	Vernon
<b>Pachyta Serv.</b>	
6247 monticola Rond.	
6248 liturata Kby.	
6249 armata Lec.	Mt. Crown; Mt. Cheam; Hope Mts.
6251 spurca Lec.	Victoria
<b>Anthophilax Lec.</b>	
6255 mirificus Bland	Vernon
<b>Acmaeops Lec.</b>	
6260 atra Lec	Vernon
6266 subpilosa	Vernon
6267 longicornis Kby.	Vernon
6269 ligata Lec.	Vernon
6274 pratensis Laich	Victoria; Hope Mts.; Similkameen; Vernon
<b>Gaurotes Lec.</b>	
6278 cressoni Bland	Harrison River; Vernon
<b>Leptura, Serv.</b>	
6299 obliterated Hald	Generally distributed
6300 soror Lec	Victoria
6301 propinqua Bland	Victoria
6316 subargentata Kby.	Victoria, Hope Mts.
6318 laeta Lec	Victoria
6323 instabilis Hald	Hope Mts., Similkameen
a convexa Lec	Vernon
6324 sexmaculata Linn	Similkameen
6327 matthewsi	Vernon
6332 canadensis Fab.	Victoria, Vernon
var. a. erythroptera Kby	Victoria, Vernon, New Westminster
var. b. cribripennis Lec	Vancouver Island
6336 dehiscens Lec	Wellington, Vancouver, Hope Mts.
6337 sanguinea Lec	Vancouver Island, Vernon
6338 laetifica Lec	Victoria, Wellington, etc.
6339 hirtella Lec	Vernon
6340 quadrillum Lec	Victoria, Goldstream, Vancouver
6341 chrysocoma Kby	Generally distributed
6344 proxima Say	"B. C."
6346 dolorsa Lec	Generally distributed
6348 crassipes Lec	Generally distributed
6349 tibialis Lec.	Queen Charlotte Is., Cheam, Hope Mts.
6350 behrensii Lec	"B. C."
6351 octonotata Say	"B. C."
6353 vittata Germ	"B. C."
6356 vibex Newn	"B. C."
6358 scripta Lec	Victoria, Wellington, Vernon, Hope Mts.
6360 valida Lec	Chilliwack
6363 aspera Lec	Wellington, Vernon, Similkameen
serpentina Cas	Shawnigan, Similkameen
<b>Plectrura Mann.</b>	
6367 spinicauda Mann	Queen Charlotte Is., Victoria
<b>Monohammus Serv.</b>	
6386 maculosus Hald	Victoria
6387 scutellatus Say	Generally distributed
6388 confusor Kby	"B. C."
<b>Synaphoeta Thom.</b>	
6403 guexi Lec	Victoria
<b>Acanthocinus Steph.</b>	
6446 obliquus Lec.	Wellington, New Westminster
6447 spectabilis Lec	New Westminster
<b>Pogonocherus Latr.</b>	
6453 mixtus Hald	Vancouver Island
<b>Saperda Fab.</b>	
6478 calcarata Say	Vancouver Island
var. a. adspersa Lec	Victoria
6483 vestita Say	"B. C."
6485 tridentata Oliv	"B. C."
6488 moesta Lec	Harrison

<b>Oberea Muls.</b>		
6497 <i>quadicallosa</i> Lec	.....	Wellington, Sicamous
<b>Tetrops Steph.</b>		
6508 <i>monostigma</i> Hald	.....	"B. C."
<b>Tetraopes Serv.</b>		
6511 <i>tetraophthalmus</i> Forst	.....	"B. C."
6513 <i>femoratus</i> Lec	.....	"B. C."
<i>var. c. oregonensis</i> Lec	.....	Vernon, Kamloops

## ADDITIONAL NEUROPTEROID INSECTS

The following species were recently determined for Mr. Harvey by the kindness of Professor Nathan Banks. Most of them are new to our list.

<b>Order Plecoptera. Family Perlidae.</b>		
<i>Perla ebria</i> Hagen	.....	Nicolium River, July, 1906
<i>Perlodes signata</i> Hagen	.....	Quamichan Lake, April, 1907
<i>Pteronarcys californica</i> Newp	.....	Vancouver, 1906
<b>Order Trichoptera. Family Phryganeidae.</b>		
<i>Neuronia concatenata</i> Walk	.....	Quamichan Lake
<b>Family Limnephilidae.</b>		
<i>Homophylax flavipennis</i> Banks	.....	Nicolium River, July, 1906
<i>Chilostigma alascensis</i> Banks	.....	Vancouver, March, 1907
<i>Glyphopsyche bryanti</i> Banks	.....	Victoria, April, 1907
<b>Order Neuroptera. Family Raphidiidae.</b>		
<i>Rhaphidia oblita</i> Hagen	.....	Hope Mts., July, 1906
(Family not stated).		
<i>Acroneuria pacifica</i> Banks	.....	Nicolium River, July, 1906
<i>Arsapnia grandis</i> Banks	.....	Vancouver, April, 1907

## ADDITIONAL SPECIES OF LEPIDOPTERA

(Dyar's number).

1345 <i>Oncocnemis glennyi</i> Grt	.....	Vernon (Bush)
1477 <i>Noctua esurialis</i> Grt	.....	Vancouver (Bush), July 20
1560 <i>Pronoctua typica</i> Smith	.....	Kaslo, Sept. 9 (Cockle)
1697 <i>Paragrotis dissona</i> Moschl	.....	Field, July 25 (Bush)
1721 <i>Paragrotis furtivus</i> Smith	.....	Vancouver, July 11 (Bush)
<i>Fishia exhilarata</i> Smith	.....	Kaslo, Oct. 10 (Cockle)
<i>Gortyna pallescens</i> Smith	.....	Kaslo, Aug. 25 (Cockle)
2781 <i>Syneda graphica</i> Hubn	.....	Hope Mts., July 17 (Harvey)
5298 <i>Carpocapsa toreuta</i> Grt	.....	"Interior of B. C." (J. R. Anderson)

The following Micro-lepidoptera were named for Mr. E. P. Venables by the kindness of Mr. W. D. Kearfott.

4454 <i>Pyrausta inaequalis</i> Guen	.....	Vernon (Venables)
4962 <i>Pterophorus homodactylus</i> Walk	.....	ib. id.
<i>Clethreutes galaxana</i> Kearf	.....	ib. id. (Metatype)
5524 <i>Choreutis sliphiella</i> Grt (var.)	.....	ib. id.
<i>Laspeyresia prosperana</i> Kearf	.....	ib. id. (Metatype)
5897 <i>Ethmia albistrigella</i> Wism	.....	ib. id.