

**Table 1.** Flight periods for the Straw Dot Moth from 1984 to 2003 at Scole in Norfolk.

| Year        | First Period |      |      | Gap | Second Period |      |      | Gap | Third Period |       |      |
|-------------|--------------|------|------|-----|---------------|------|------|-----|--------------|-------|------|
|             | from         | to   | days |     | from          | to   | days |     | from         | to    | days |
| <b>1984</b> |              |      |      |     |               |      |      |     |              | 13/10 | 1    |
| <b>1985</b> | -            | -    |      |     | -             | -    |      |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1986</b> |              | 16/7 | 1    | -   |               | 23/9 | 1    |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1987</b> | 29/6         | 27/7 | 29   | 32  | 29/8          | 20/9 | 23   |     | -            | -     |      |
|             |              |      |      |     |               |      |      |     |              |       |      |
| <b>1990</b> | -            | -    | -    |     | 8/8           | 24/8 | 17   |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1991</b> | -            | -    | -    |     | 26/7          | 27/8 | 33   |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1992</b> | 1/6          | 9/6  | 9    | 28  | 8/8           | 14/8 | 7    |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1993</b> | 4/6          | 26/6 | 23   | 37  | 3/8           | 4/9  | 33   |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1994</b> | 6/6          | 1/7  | 26   | 19  | 21/7          | 1/9  | 42   |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1995</b> | 3/6          | 29/6 | 27   | 19  | 19/7          | 18/8 | 31   |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1996</b> |              | 27/6 | 1    | ?   | 20/8          | 3/9  | 15   | ?   |              | 14/10 | 1    |
| <b>1997</b> | 10/6         |      | 1    | ?   | 10/8          | 18/8 | 9    |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>1998</b> | 15/6         | 19/6 | 5    | 55  | 14/8          | 16/8 | 3    |     | -            | -     |      |
|             |              |      |      |     |               |      |      |     |              |       |      |
| <b>2001</b> | 5/6          | 5/7  | 31   | 36  | 11/8          | 2/9  | 23   |     | -            | -     |      |
| <b>2002</b> | 2/6          | 28/6 | 27   | 29  | 28/7          | 31/8 | 35   | 19  | 20/9         | 30/9  | 11   |
| <b>2003</b> | 27/5         | 28/6 | 33   | 17  | 16/7          | 24/8 | 40   | 15  | 9/9          | 12/10 | 34   |

Dates when larvae are found, and at what instar(s), are required to confirm that the Straw Dot is triple brooded – at least at Scole at the moment. Ideally finding mature larvae from mid June to early July and again from late August to early September, as well as the usual late April early May period, is what is wanted. These dates are somewhat tentative as there must be differential growth rates and emergence times, but significant variation either in when mature larvae are found or the number of different instars found together would still leave questions to be answered.

I am grateful to Gerry Haggett for information on rearing the larvae of the Straw Dot and for helpful comment and criticism on an earlier draft of this note.— MIKE HALL, Hopefield, Norwich Road, Scole, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4DY.

### ***Trichiusa immigrata* Lohse (Col.: Staphylinidae) in numbers from straw in East Suffolk**

This aleocharine rove beetle has spread rapidly following its discovery in Kent in 1992 (Heal, N. F. 1993. *Coleopterist* 2: 218). It has chiefly been found in very small numbers in old dung heaps although there are two records of it being found in numbers; once in a Surrey grass-compost heap (Owen, J. A. *et al.* 1997. *Entomologist's Gaz.* 48: 111–124 ) and once from composted household and garden waste (Welch, R. C. & Sadler, J. P. 2000. *Coleopterist* 9: 54).



Since April 1998, I have found it in ones or twos in four old dung heaps in East Suffolk (see Nash, D. R. 2002. *Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.* **38**: 101–123). On 4 July 2002, however, I discovered the beetle in absolute profusion in the loose, damp straw on the open ground outside the base of some stacked and covered straw bales at White House Farm, Great Glemham (O.S. grid ref. TM 3562). There was an almost total absence of other aleocharines as well as of the larger carabids and staphylinids (the absence of these last-named predators may well have contributed to the abundance of *Trichiusa*).

These three finds of the beetle in numbers perhaps indicates that optimum breeding sites are those with more-or-less “pure” decomposing plant material rather than dung heaps with their partially digested plant remains and straw contaminated by herbivore dung and urine. I thank my friend Alex Williams for identifying my first examples of *T. immigrata* and Lord Cranbrook for permission to record on his estate at Great Glemham.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.

#### **Further records of the Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti* Fabr. (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Devon**

The presence of this species in Devon has only been confirmed recently (*Ent. Rec.* **115**: 192–193). Further survey work was carried out on 2 and 14 April 2004 with traps set at four different sites in the Hatherleigh area. The Hannaborough Moor site was not surveyed this time. The moth was found at all sites surveyed by myself and Rob Wolton. Our first attempt, on 2 April, failed almost certainly because we packed up too early; this action was based on my experiences of the moth in the south-east, which suggested that it flies early on in the night. The session on 14 April proved more successful, and on this occasion we left traps running all night. It seems reasonable to assume that the moth in Devon flies a lot later than it does in the south-east, probably after 01.30 hours. The Halsinger Down, near Ilfracombe site mentioned in *Ent. Rec.* **115**: 192 – 193 has yet to be investigated.— ROY McCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.

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Nash, David R. 2004. "Trichiusa immigrata Lohse (Col.: Staphylinidae) in numbers from straw in east Suffolk." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 116, 151–152.

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