

***Catoptria falsella* (D.& S.) (Lep.: Pyralidae) in south-east London**

When leaving Woolwich Common, near here, on 11 July 1999, I noticed a smallish pale-looking moth rise up from undergrowth beside the path and vanish into bushes above. Luckily it had settled on a twig and I was able to secure it, when it turned out to be a species of what many of us had long known as *Crambus*, but unfamiliar. Its distinctive markings made its later identification as *Catoptria falsella* a simple matter. The species is far from common and it seems unlikely that there is a previous record for the district. On a later occasion I returned to the spot to search for a possible breeding site, which is said to be old walls with mosses on which the larva feeds. No trace of any such could be found, however: behind the row of bushes alongside the path, where the moth occurred, is only a large car park.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

**A note on the possible second brood of the Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* L. (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in south-east London**

It seems that the voltinism of this very familiar insect is not entirely clear (see Plant, 1987, *The Butterflies of the London Area*: 139). Perhaps, therefore, it will be worth noting what appears to be the case in my district, where *jurtina* abounds on Woolwich Common in particular.

In early autumn, at the very end of the protracted main brood when almost only some worn females persist, I have several times noticed odd specimens, rather small and dark, not appreciably worn, and seemingly always male. This might appear to point decidedly to a fragmentary (probably sterile) second brood resulting from some of the earliest butterflies of the main brood. At least, that would explain these occasional late males, though in no way settling the question. It may well be that the situation is not uniform over the whole country.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

**A record of *Crombrughia laetus* (Zeller) (Lep.: Pterophoridae) new to West Sussex**

Whilst looking through John Radford's collection earlier this year, he pointed out a plume-moth which he had caught in his garden mercury vapour trap at Walberton, West Sussex on 24.vi.1998 and could not identify, but which he thought could be *Crombrughia laetus*. The insect certainly looked like this species, but to be certain I took the specimen away and made a slide of the genitalia. The slide confirmed that the specimen is *laetus*. Both the moth and the slide have been returned to John Radford.

This is only the twelfth record of this moth in the UK (see Hart, 1996. *Ent. Rec.* **108**: 113-117 for a review of known records and notes on its separation from *C. distans* (Zeller, 1847)). It is worth noting that all the records except one have been from within thirty miles of the south coast of England. This insect is easily overlooked and I would ask all entomologists operating in the south to look out for small, brownish-orange plume-moths, and to send the details (and the specimen if



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