

***Photedes pygmina* (Haw.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in N.W. Kent**

On 2 August 1995 (a very early date) four specimens attended my garden m.v. light. For the nineteenth century Chalmers-Hunt *Butterflies and Moths of Kent* (1964) states that the moth was common locally at Lee, and also at Paul Cray Common only about three miles away until 1920. However, there appear to be no previous records for the well-worked Bexley/Dartford area. C.W. Plant *Larger Moths of the London Area* (1993) quotes no records for the Kent section of this region for the period 1980-1991; indeed for the past sixty years there is but one record, for Lee in 1954.

I suspect that these 1995 specimens did not originate locally, but came from further afield in a night of dispersal. K. Williamson (*Ent. Rec.* 68: 95) reported a specimen on Fair Isle, 30.viii.1955, during a period of bird and insect migration. Were other specimens reported in places where the moth was thought to be absent, on 2 August 1995? However, unaccountably, or perhaps belying my suggestion, a further pale specimen appeared at the garden light on 1 September. All but one, which was dark reddish brown, were pale specimens.— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

***Nymphalis antiopa* (L.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in N.W. Kent**

In the long absence of the annual review of immigrant macro-lepidoptera perhaps a sighting of a Camberwell Beauty is worth recording now. On 23rd August 1995 I watched a specimen as it repeatedly circled one of my neighbour's apple trees, sometimes deviating from its course to fly over a little pile of fallen apples, but it did not settle, nor did it show interest in the flower beds. Its mode of flight was not as expected; it did not resemble the bold, erratic flight of *Vanessa atalanta* (L.), but instead progressed with a curious shallow flapping motion, quite fast and maintaining a steady course even when eventually it flew across my garden and away. Even in flight its whitish borders were conspicuous.— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

***Craniophora ligustri* (D. & S.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in N.W. Kent**

It was suggested by Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, 1965) that this species, not having been noted in the region since the turn of the century, was perhaps extinct here. I reported specimens, all the melanic ab. *coronula* Haw., at my garden m.v. light in 1969, 1984 and 1986 (*Ent. Rec.* 99: 184). For the period 1980-1991 C.W. Plant (*Larger Moths of the London Area*, 1993) confirms the moth's status as very rare in the London region, with no records north of the River Thames, and mine the only ones for the Kent portion. Therefore, the arrival of three more specimens at the light in 1995, on 10 July (2) and 20 July, confirm the insect's continued presence; however, significantly in view of the decline in atmospheric pollution these specimens were of the normal form, and not melanic.

— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.



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