

E. S. A. Baynes did not accept the record and until recently I had doubts about it myself.

I became convinced that second generation *crepuscularia* did occur when collecting with Dr. J. R. Langmaid on the BENHS field meeting at Harewood Forest, Hants. on 2nd August 1982, when there appeared on the sheet a few individuals each of rather worn *E. bistortata* (Goeze) and, in better condition, *E. crepuscularia*, distinguishable at a glance by their greater size and paler colouring.

Finally, an apparent second generation female *crepuscularia* came into my garden m.v. trap here on 26th July 1982 and a male on 23rd August 1985. E. C. PELHAM-CLINTON, Furzeleigh House, Lyme Road, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5SW.

MYTHIMNA LOREYI DUP. (LEP. NOCTUIDAE) IN CORNWALL. — During the autumn of 1985 I made two visits to the Lizard, from October 1st to 3rd and from October 14th to 17th. The former was made at the end of an anticyclonic spell; the nights were mild, but clear and with a full moon, breezy on the first night but with gale force winds on subsequent ones, so m.v. light was operated only on the first evening and was largely unproductive, while three nights' sugaring attracted a mere dozen moths on each of the first two evenings, and nothing on the third. However, the bait did attract four *M. loreyi*, all in good condition, one specimen of the local dark form of *Eumichtis lichenea* Hubn. and several of the characteristic well-marked, variegated form of *Aporophyla australis* Boisd.

Anticyclonic conditions prevailed during the second visit; again the nights were mild, but after the first evening a rising easterly breeze and clearing skies soon after dark seemed to inhibit flight. Sugar applied to posts on the first two evenings attracted but a solitary *A. nigra* Haw. The commonest moths at the m.v. light were *Autographa gamma* L. in vast numbers, including a specimen of the rare ab. *bipartita* Orst. in which the "y" mark is broken into a "v" and a dot, and *Phlogophora meticulosa* L. However, next commonest was *M. loreyi* with seventeen, but not in the prime condition of those seen a fortnight earlier. Other probable immigrants in addition to the three species mentioned were several *Agrotis ipsilon* Rott., three *Peridroma saucia* Hubn. and one *M. unipuncta* Haw.; other interesting species comprised a number of *A. australis*, still in good condition, and singletons of *E. lichenea*, *Dasypolia templi* Thunb. and a barely recognizable *Lygephila cracca* Fab.

Thus twenty-one *M. loreyi* were encountered, under not very favourable conditions; of the seventeen at m.v. light few entered the trap but rested amongst the grass a yard or so away, indeed a number were not observed until after the light had been extinguished, when after a while they tended to climb the grass stems pre-

paratory to flight. In view of the unfavourable collecting conditions during my visits, this score of *M. loreyi* must have been only a few representatives of a very considerable invasion of this insect to S.W. Cornwall during late September and perhaps early October, 1985. Two females taken laid rows of eggs inside grass stems split open previously by thumb nail, and in the grass sheaths; the eggs hatched in about a week.

An immigrant species seen by day was *Vanessa cardui*, one being observed at the Lizard and five at Helston, all on October 3rd. B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

HELOPHORUS GRISEUS HBST. (COL.: HYDROPHILIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON. — As this species (= *affinis* Marsh., *sensu* Sharp) is far from common and may not be credibly recorded from the metropolitan area except once as under, it is worth noting that I have in recent years found two examples (14.iv.84, 28.viii.85) — both males identified from the aedeagophore — in the pond on Blackheath from which I had already reported the still rarer *H. longitarsis* Woll. (1984, *Ent.mon.Mag.* 120:242). They were passed at the time as the extremely similar *H. minutus* F., common in the district; the separation of the two species is critical. I have lately detected a further male *griseus* from my former garden at Blackheath, from a small artificial pond where *minutus* was frequent; it has a brighter green pronotum than any of the latter, unlike those from the pond on the heath.

On the latter of the two above dates, besides the single *griseus* two further *longitarsis* were obtained: a female, and a very small male of the same size as the *griseus*. What makes this of some little interest is the fact that these two uncommon species are the only Helophori so far found to inhabit the pond — apart from an occasional *brevipalpis* Bed. which seems no more than casual there, though normally so abundant. However, the two rarer species are known to favour broadly similar conditions, and in fact were taken together in this district late last century. Thus, Sharp (1916, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 70: 168) wrote of his *H. diffinis* (= *longitarsis*): "Mr. Champion found an individual at Lee in Kent many years ago, and it was accompanied by a mimetic variety of *H. affinis*". The two localities are barely three miles apart; Lee Pit (alas, long gone), then a favourite haunt of London collectors, used to yield many 'good' species. — A. A. ALLEN.

LARVA OF MOMPHA LACTEELLA (STEPHENS) ON EPILOBIUM MONTANUM IN APRIL. — On 18th. May 1985 I bred a female *Mompha lacteella* (Stephens) (confirmed by dissection) from a larva I found at Dewerstone Woods, Devon on 13th. April. It was mining the upper surface of a leaf at the tip of *Epilobium montanum*. In the mine the larva appeared brownish with white pinacula and a black head and plate. Unfortunately I did not see it when it emerged and before it spun its cocoon.



West, Brian K. 1986. "Mythimna loreyi Dup. (Lep. Noctuidae) in Cornwall." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 98, 120–121.

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