

HYPENA CRASSALIS FABRICIUS (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE), THE BEAUTIFUL SNOOT, IN HERTFORDSHIRE – A single female of *H. crassalis* was caught in one of the Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps operating in Harpenden (Site No. 22, Geescroft 1, O.S. Grid Ref. TL 132 128) on the night of 13/14-vii-1985. So far as I am aware this species has not previously been recorded in Hertfordshire. The normal larval foodplant (bilberry) is not present in the area, therefore this individual is probably a migrant. The nearest known colony is approximately 29 km distant at Aspley Heath in Bedfordshire (Grid ref. TL 925 352). **ADRIAN M. RILEY**, Department of Entomology, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Current Literature

The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland by Michael J. Roberts.

Volume 1, Atypidae to Theridiosomatidae, 4to., 229pp., 8 col. illu. and numerous line drawings. **Volume 3, all families**, 4to., 237 col. plates. Harley Books, Martins, Great Horkeley, Colchester, Essex, 1985. Vol. 1, £45. Vol. 3, £55. Vols. 1 & 2 together, £85.

Although there are several modern standard works on British spiders, notably those by Locket, Millidge & Merrett (1951-53, 1974), Bristow (1958) and Jones (1983), identification is still somewhat of a problem, and in the words of the author of the book under review, "the present work is an attempt to make identification of British spiders a little easier". The outstanding feature of these two volumes, is the exceptional quality of the coloured illustrations, which may even excell the, until now, incomparable plates in Blackwell's classic, *A. History of the Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland* (2 vols., Ray Society, 1861-64). A remarkable fact moreover, is that all the coloured illustrations in Dr. Roberts' book as well as the many hundreds of fine line drawings, were executed by the author himself.

Volume 1 is portioned into four sections. Section 1 (pp. 15-30) consists of an introduction which includes chapters on the external morphology of spiders; courtship, mating and growth; spider bites and poison; spider communication; collection of spiders; silk; preservation and examination of spiders; occurrence and distribution of British spiders; and finally, a bibliography of 72 items. Section 2 (pp. 31-34) concerns classification and nomenclature and has 13 line drawings. Section 3 (pp. 35-44) is a key to the families of spiders, and is illustrated by 70 line drawings. Then follows the main part, Section 4 (pp.45-224), which deals with all families



Riley, A M. 1986. "Hypena crassalis Fabricius (Lep.: Noctuidae), the beautiful snout, in Hertfordshire." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 98, 213–213.

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