

- SPODOPTERA EXIGUA Hbn. (3) S. ESSEX: Bradwell-on-Sea, 20.9 (AJD). SURREY: Leigh, 19.9 (RF); Addiscombe, 21.9 (KAGE).
- HELICOVERPA ARMIGERA Hbn. (5) DORSET: Swanage, 5/6.10 (EHW). S. HANTS: Lymington, 30.9 (AJP). E. KENT: Newington, 20/21.9 (PJJ). SURREY: Bramley, 29/30.8 (RFB). WARWICKS: Marton, 21.9, female (AFJG).
- HELIOTHIS PELTIGERA D & S. (about 30, over 100 larvae and 2 pupae) BERKS: Emmer Green, Caversham, 2.6., 7.6. (JHFN). W. CORNWALL: Near Land's End, 24/31.8, two pupae dug near rest harrow patches (TGH). E. CORNWALL: Looe Bar, 22.8., male at *Silene maritima*, female drying wings, 23.8., male (APF). DENBIGHS: Abergele, 11/12.6., fresh male (SC). DERBYS: Derby, 18.6 (AB). S. DEVON: Branscombe, 3.8 (BG). DORSET: Portland, 18.6., worn male, 21., female (RGC); Swanage, 3/4.8., two, 3.9 (AJP); Studland, 6.9 (DCGB). S. HANTS: Lymington, 13/14.6 (AJP). E. KENT: Dungeness, 3 & 10.8, also larvae on *S. viscosa* 21 & 22.9 (EHW); Sandwich Bay, 15.8 (TWH); Boughton Aluph, 11/12.9 (ME). MIDDSEX: Islington, 15.6 (MG). SURREY: Wormley, 5/6.6, in trap (JLM); Wisley Gardens, 18/19.6 (AHH), Addiscombe, 18.9, male (KAGE). W. SUSSEX: Rogate, 14/15.6, fairly fresh (JACG); Pagham, 7.8, two on ragwort, also larvae (DA); Aldwick Bay, 12.9, and larvae on *S. viscosa* 12 & 16.9 (DGS). E. SUSSEX: Ninfield, 10.4. in trap before midnight (MP); Eastbourne, 9.8 (SWP); Pevensey, 12.8., Crumbles, larvae 12.8, six, 4.10, 50 in an hour on *S. viscosa* (CRP).
- EUBLEMMA PARVA Hbn. (2) S. HANTS: Southsea, 7.8 (JRL). W. SUSSEX: Heyshott, 6.8 (DA).
- DELTOTE BANKIANA Hbn. (2) N. ESSEX: Beaumont-cum-Moze, 14.6, in trap (JBF). E. KENT: Kingsdown, 12.6, male at light (APF).
- TRICHOPLUSIA NI Hbn. (3) MID CORK: Fountainstown, 3.9, male (AAM). DORSET: Portland, 24.5, male at light (WLC). E. KENT: Dungeness, 22.7, one identified but escaped (EHW).
- DIACHRYSLA ORICHALCEA F. (2) S. HANTS: Lymington, 1/2.9 (AJP), 5.9 (ASH).

(To be continued)

HESPERIID LARVAE AS PREY FOR A SPHECID WASP. —

During a visit to Nigeria in December 1980, I happened across the larva of *Spialia ploetzi* Aurivillius in a Lagos hotel garden. It was feeding on the weed, *Triumfetta* (Tiliaceae) which looks rather like European *Malva*.

As is usual in the HesperIIDae, the caterpillars were living singly inside an envelope made by folding the leaf across so that underside of the leaf can be seen from above. I was studying one of these envelopes when a large sphecid wasp landed on the leaf and immediately chewed a hole in the leaf, extracted the larva and flew off. It must be assumed that the HesperIIDae larvae live in envelopes for protective reasons and I was curious as to how the wasp had managed to locate the larva with such speed and precision. Ten minutes later the wasp came back and provided the answer: visual predation once removed. The underside of the *Triumfetta* leaf is lighter than the upperside and the wasp was systematically investigating all leaves where the upperside could be seen from above. A fair proportion of such leaves were Hesperiid envelopes. Knowing how Sphecid wasps can navigate through acquired topographical knowledge, there is little doubt that its hunting behaviour in this case was acquired rather than intrinsic. When Hesperiid larvae become scarce, another visual search pattern will be adopted. I



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