

I shared with him, and my wife a very large female insect, which Cockayne found to be larger than any at Tring. I never look at that butterfly, which she caught by standing at a clump of thistles, without recalling the scene.

I myself, if a butterfly or moth does not vary, do not care whence my short set came. My series of *Limenitis camilla* L. consists of a dozen; of these nine were given to me by the Rev. C. R. N. Burrows over 70 years ago, one was netted here in 1946 for the sake of the locality, another in the autumn of 1947 to vouch for the unusual second brood, and the twelfth is an ab. *nigrina* bought at the Rev. J. N. Marcon's sale. In my numerous visits to the New Forest I must have seen thousands.

Even rare insects I treat in the same way. Some years ago when *Perizoma sagittata* F. turned up in numbers in a certain locality, I was offered a lift by a collector who had taken larvae in the preceding year and was going for more, to accompany him to the spot. I told him I had a short bred set given me in 1909 by Charles Fenn of *brevilinea* fame and they would suffice, even if slightly faded. As Fenn was then an old man they are probably about a hundred years old, but I have never regretted my decision. I have only once seen *sagittata* alive. I netted a female quite fresh but obviously full of eggs in a well-known locality where the moth is rare and let her go again.

I do not wish to give the impression that I never take a long series but only that I take short ones where the insect does not vary, or produce local races. I have a drawer of *Euphyia bilineata* L. from various localities in the west of Ireland and a half a drawer of *Cryphia muralis* Forst from the same country.

But if moths fade, as many do, well let 'em. Once the true colours have been fixed in the eye, and possibly entered in a notebook, a deterioration in colour is vexatious but scientifically irrelevant. Allowance for such fading must be noted in making a description; Donovan (*Cat. Macrolep. Ireland*, p. 77) describes the mountain form of *Calostygia didymata* L. as very dark brownish-black, whereas it is jet-black when fresh and his were evidently old specimens; a friend of mine (now deceased) renewed his "emeralds" every ten years, a sufficiently silly procedure. Of course, some like *Thetidia smaragdaria* F. do not fade at all, my own, bred from the Kentish locality I discovered (now destroyed) in 1922 are still quite fresh in colour.

MYTHIMNA OBSOLETA HUBN. (OBSCURE WAINSCOT) IN SUSSEX. — Further to a previous note regarding *Meliana flammea* Curtis (Flame Wainscot) in Sussex in 1974 (*Ent. Rec.*, 87: 64), examination of a catch at m.v. light on the night of 16th June, 1975 revealed the presence of a male *L. obsoleta* — identification kindly confirmed by Dr. J. V. Banner and Mr. G. Botright. — COLIN PRATT, "Oleander", 5 Peacehaven, Newhaven, Sussex.



Pratt, C. 1976. "Mythimna obsoleta Hubn. (obscure wainscot) in Sussex." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 88, 120–120.

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