

Grid ref. NX 25 (Glen Luce area):

- 169 *Zygaena filipendulae* (Linn.)
 1531 *Ochlodes venata* (Brem. & Grey)
 1574 *Polyommatus icarus* (Rott.)
 1629 *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Linn.)
 1909 *Pseudopanthera macularia* (Linn.)

Grid ref. NX 16 (New Luce area):

- 1040 *Acleris caledoniana* (Steph.)
 (larvae on *Myrica*; em. end July)
 1142 *Epinotia tedella* (Clerck)
 1627 *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Linn.)
 1628 *C. tullia* (Müll.)

Acknowledgement

I thank the Forestry Commission, Newton Stewart Office, for permission to collect Lepidoptera in the woodlands of the Kilsture Forest area.

***Scopula imitaria* Hübner. (Lep.: Geometridae) — a note on voltinism.**

Although modern textbooks state that this insect is univoltine in Britain, C. Barrett (*Lepidoptera of the British Islands*, 1902) states that there is a partial second brood in hot seasons in September, or even late August, in very mild and sheltered districts. The first appearance is sometimes earlier and the second generation more complete. I can find only three references to probable second brood specimens in recent years — C. de Worms, Woking, Surrey, 12.ix.1976 (*Ent. Rec.* **89**: 144) and 14.ix.1961 (*Entomologist* **95**: 115), and A. Wheeler, Ashstead, Surrey, 11.ix.1969 (L. & K. Evans, *A survey of the macro-lepidoptera of Croydon and N.E. Surrey*, 1973). Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and moths of Kent*, **3**, 1981) has surprisingly no record of a second brood specimen for that county.

Imitaria puts in an appearance at my garden mv light most years, usually in July, occasionally in June or August, the earliest date being 13.vi.1989. The following occasions undoubtedly refer to examples of a second generation — 6.ix.1975 and 18.ix.1975, a year in which I encountered only one specimen of the first brood, and that on the early date of 24th June; 28.viii.1976 and 15.ix.1976, first brood specimens appearing from 10th July until 25th July; and 13.ix.1989 and 21.ix.1989.

Barrett's assessment of the time appearance of *imitaria* would appear to be the correct one as far as this area is concerned. However, is not one forced to conclude that this moth must have been much commoner in its second generation in the nineteenth century than today, for Barrett's observation was made before the coming of the mv light, and the few recent sightings of September *imitaria* listed refer to attraction by this source?

Of the second generation specimens of *imitaria* attracted to my mv light only one was retained, that noted for 15.ix.1982, and this is an example of ab. *aequilineata* Schwingenschuss, which as its name suggests has the characteristic well-defined oblique line replaced by a thin line no more prominent than the other cross lines. Chalmers-Hunt (*loc. cit.*) has only one reference to this form for Kent — a specimen in the National Collection which was taken at Barham (date not given); however, it is doubtless the one labelled "June 1921" in a meagre series of three,

indicating that this form must be distinctly rare, and may appear in either generation.— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

ENTOMOLOGICAL PATTTER

(With apologies to W.S. Gilbert)

From my youth to old age, I have sought to engage
In collecting all insects with scales.
It's a singular hobby, just ask any Bobby,
When you're caught up a lamp-post in "tails".

I've a mercury light, which is terribly bright,
As it shines above sheets on a tripod:
And the insects buzz round, with a soft whirring sound,
Like Arch-deacons attending a Synod.

I splash treacle on trees, and lots fall on my knees,
To attract hungry moths there to feed on;
And plump females I catch, which lay eggs by the batch,
From which many fine vars I shall breed on.

There are Micros so small, which I can't see at all,
With names that are sesquipedalian,
But with winds South-South-West I may hope for the best
Of rare migrants ex Mediterranean.

There are wasps in my hair, and a very fine pair
Of *pseudospretella* in copula.
Nothing wrong with this moth, though its larvae eat cloth
And with housewives they aren't very popular.

When you're up in the Breck, and you race neck and neck
With a friend after *grisea* for a gamble.
It may look a fair bet as you swipe with your net,
But it all gets caught up in a bramble.

NOW

I've broken my net and I can't see to set
And it isn't much fun when you simply can't run
In pursuit of a coal-black *lathonia*.
And that cursed *dermestes*, a terrible pest is —
But I'll finish my song as the Genny's gone wrong . . .
And I've just spilt a pint of Ammonia!
E.H.W. Oct. 1989



West, Brian K. 1990. "Scopula imitaria Hubn. (Lep.; Geometridae) - a note on voltinism." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 102, 109–110.

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