

At the time of writing the first note, the present author was unaware of the Scottish Insects Record Index (SIRI) run by the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; this ignorance was correctly and usefully exposed by Shaw (*Ent. Rec.*, (1987) **99**: 37-38). The author is most grateful to Miss Isobel Baldwin of the Royal Museum of Scotland for supplying photocopies of historic published records for *Eilema complana*. This note provides an opportunity to commend the SIRI to entomologists, particularly holidaying 'foreigners'.

The additional records for Scotland are:—

- (1) Elgin — rare — Mr. Gellie. Gordon, G. *Zoologist* for 1861: 7667. There are no recent records for Elgin. Ms Christine Sangster of the Elgin Museum reports that there are specimens in their collection, including some in material assembled by a local collector; unfortunately, all these lack data. The similar common footman, which has *Lithosia complanula* Boisduval as a popular synonym, has been recently recorded from Elgin in Heath *et al* (1979) *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* **9**, Mr. Gellie's record may refer to the common footman.
- (2) Marchmount, Dumfries — not common. Lenonn, W. *Transactions of the Dumfries & Galloway Natural History & Antiquarian Society* for 1862-3: 56. This record is believable, however, it is possible that the record could refer to the common footman which is recorded from the area by Heath *et al* (*op. cit*) but is missing from Lenonn's list. Dumfries town does not seem to offer the rocky coast that the scarce footman seems to require in south west Scotland.
- (3) Mull of Galloway — one — Mr. Henderson the lighthouse keeper. Jackson, D. J. *Ent. Rec.* **22**:117. There would seem to be no good reason to doubt this record.
- (4) Galashiels. A very dubious larval record is doubted and discussed by Bolam, G. *History of the Berwickshire Naturalist's Club* (1926) **25**: 554. I. D. WALLACE, Liverpool Museum 6.4.1987.

THE FEATHERED BRINDLE, *APOROPHYLA AUSTRALIS* (BOISD.) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) FROM PEMBROKESHIRE — On 22.v.1986, an attractive, but unfamiliar, large noctuid caterpillar was accidentally dislodged from vegetation alongside a car park at Broomhill Burrows, Freshwater West, Pembrokeshire (grid ref SM(12) 885000). After a short search, another two were found. A variety of adjacent food-plants were offered and kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* L. was accepted. Within a week all three larvae had pupated; two shrivelled within their cocoons but a slightly crippled female emerged the following September.

Heath *et al* (1983) *Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland* 10 show that the species has been recorded from south-west Wales but that area is not given in the distributional summary by Skinner, B. (1984) *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. This suggests that there are no recent Welsh records. I. D. WALLACE, Liverpool Museum, 2.4.1987.

AN INTERESTING SPECIMEN OF THE WHITE PROMINENT MOTH – following the recent articles in this Journal about *Leucodontia bicoloria* D. & S. (S.C.S. Brown, *Ent. Rec.* 98: 9-10 and R. F. Haynes 96: 1-6) I was fascinated to notice in the British Museum (Natural History) under one of the assumed British specimens of *bicoloria* the note “Seen by the Poet Swinburn”. This refers to the great Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburn, I presume. Was he, perhaps, a collector? Can anyone throw any light on this? Dr. P. J. EDWARDS, Stars Cottage, Stars Lane, Dinton, Bucks.

THE WHITE ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY IN CENTRAL OXFORD – on three occasions during the summers of 1985 and 1986 I observed specimens of *Lagoda camilla* L. in Central Oxford. The first was on the afternoon of 17.viii.1985, when I observed a butterfly settled on the pavement adjacent to the Town Hall. The second was observed settled in a quiet street on 14.vii.1986, and a third two days later flying near a church in main shopping street (Cornmarket). All seemed unlikely habitats for this fine butterfly. K. EDWARDS 15 Cobden Street, Dundee.

Current Literature

Sphingidae Mundi: Hawk Moths of the world by Bernard D'Abrera.
226 pp. 80 colour plates. 250 x 340 mm. E. W. Classey Ltd.,
1987. £97.50.

This superb work on the hawk-moths of the world is the first single volume on the Sphingidae to be published for over 80 years, and fulfills a need long felt by students and collectors of this interesting family.

The book follows the now familiar format of Bernard D'Abrera's preceding works on the Butterflies of the World with a short introduction followed by a two page glossary and a systematic catalogue of genera. The following 200 pages comprise a systematic, illustrated catalogue of the known species of Sphingidae. Over 1000



Wallace, I. D. 1987. "The feathered brindle, *Aporophyla australis* (Boisd.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) from Pembrokeshire." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 99, 233–234.

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