

NEW JERSEY RHOPALOCERA—STRYMON CECROPS FABR.

On September 7, 1948 while collecting with Dr. George W. Rawson of Summit, New Jersey near Reed's Beach, on the north-western part of the Cape May Peninsula, two specimens of *Strymon cecrops* were captured, both badly worn and torn. A third specimen was observed, all almost exactly at the same spot in a small swamp of about an acre in area.

Believing these specimens were not strays but the result of a breeding colony I visited the same locality this year on August 26, 1948 together with L. J. Sanford of New York. The swamp was under 18 inches of water where I had stood the year before. The weather was clear and the temperature over 100° F., in the shade.

On about 35 to 40 occasions *cecrops* was observed in flight on the adjacent higher ground. They were extremely wary. None were seen to feed on the, abundant and variety of, flowers available within and out of the swamp. They were first observed, apparently having been startled from a resting place in the foliage, at a height of about 8 to 12 feet above the ground and at a distance of from 10 to 25 feet from the observer. Their jerky flight was extremely difficult to follow but on many occasions they appeared to alight on a leaf of the tall sumacs, just behind the large flowering heads, and almost invariably with other foliage directly above them. Because of the density of the undergrowth, movement of the collector was slow and because of the location of the insects a free swing of the net was seldom possible. Four specimens were, however, captured after several hours of concentrated effort.

There were so many occasions when no insect could be located where it had apparently come to rest that some peculiar behavior was indicated. This was finally observed. A startled insect coming to rest in a position about eight feet high as described above, remained in view as a cautious approach was being negotiated from about 25 feet distant. It was walking slowly along a sumac leaf and when the collector was about 10 feet distant it suddenly dropped vertically and swiftly to the ground. Fortunately it

landed among dead leaves in a small but relatively open patch near the base of the sumac on a spot in view through the undergrowth.

With wings held tightly together it walked very slowly among the leaves while a net was placed carefully over it, an operation requiring considerable disturbance of the underbrush and a half minute of time. It remained motionless under the net until disturbed whereupon it flew upward and was captured. In all, five specimens were taken, mostly fresh but some torn.

How many of the observations in flight involved the same individuals is very hard to estimate. All were confined to an area of less than two acres, though careful search was made beyond. In any event the evidence involving two years would seem to indicate a breeding colony.

In W. P. Comstock's "Butterflies of New Jersey," JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol. XLVIII, March 1940, the species is recorded in the "supplemental list," consisting of those which could not be regarded as regular inhabitants. Further observations in the locality may indicate its promotion to regular status in the New Jersey list.—SIDNEY A. HESSEL.



Hessel, Sidney A. 1948. "New Jersey Rhopalocera-Strymon cecrops Fabr." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 56, 243-244.

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