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***Campaea margaritata* (L.) ab. *rubrociliata* Schawerda (Lep.: Geometridae) in south-east London**

Since my recent note (1995, *Ent. Rec.* **107**: 282) recording a specimen from here of the Light Emerald with all the fringes red, Mr B.K. West has been good enough to supply the answer to my query as to its identity. He determined the form as that cited above, from an unpublished work by

Goodson and Read at the Natural History Museum, London; the description is "both wings have fringes red", agreeing perfectly with the Charlton moth. It appears to be an uncommon and little-known form, at all events in Britain, as witness the fact that few authors mention it; and to be new to at least the London area. Mr West has examined very large numbers of *margaritata* over the years from his garden moth-trap at Dartford, without finding *ab. rubrociliata*. It would be of interest to know whether others have met with this form. Now that attention has been drawn to it, the aberration may perhaps be found less rarely than hitherto.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

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### BOOK REVIEW

**Dragonflies** by **Peter L. Miller** (with plates by R.R. Askew, figures by Sophie Allington and David Chelmick, a key to larvae by Graham Vick and a key to adults by David Chelmick) – second edition. Naturalists' Handbooks number 7, published for The Company of Biologists Ltd. by The Richmond Publishing Company Ltd., Slough, 1995. 118pp. 4 colour plates. Hardbound – ISBN 0 85546 300 7, price £16.00; paperback – ISBN 0 85546 299 X, price £8.95.

The fact that some 1300 people now belong to the British Dragonfly Society, a group founded as recently as 1983, is an indication of the level of interest in these fascinating insects – approximately the same number as all the members of the London Natural History Society and roughly twice the number of subscribers to the *Entomologist's Record*! For the many entomologists such as myself, however, for whom dragonflies do not hold the principal interest, and for the general naturalist, there has been something of a vacuum in useful books on the Odonata. Cynthia Longfield's classic work on the subject (Longfield, 1949), has long been out of print and is quite unaffordable when a secondhand copy does surface. Hammond (1983) provided a reasonably priced identification guide, but its key to larvae is quite unworkable for many specimens and the book contains precious little on biology or ecology. At the other end of the scale, and from the same publishing stable, Askew (1988) provided an excellent and comprehensive coverage of the entire European fauna but the price of this volume puts it beyond the reach of non-specialists. Most readers of this review will probably possess a copy of *The Collins Field Guide* (d'Aguilar *et al.*, 1988) but this work covers all of Europe with North Africa and so is necessarily limited in the information it imparts on British species.

However, with Peter Miller's new book the vacuum has apparently been filled. Here at last is an affordable volume that covers just about every aspect



Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1996. "Campaea margaritata (L.) ab. rubrociliata Schawerda (Lep.: Geometridae) in south-east London." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 108, 167–168.

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