

THE KENTISH GLORY: *ENDROMIS VERSICOLORA*
(L.) AT RANNOCH

By E. C. PELHAM-CLINTON*

A paper in this journal by Marran (1981) discussed the decline and present distribution of the Kentish Glory moth in Great Britain. The author noted the lack of recent records from Rannoch in spite of the abundance of birch in that area.

That this species at Rannoch fed on alder has not been accorded much publicity. Most British publications either give birch only as the foodplant or else a curious list of them; e.g. Morris (1872), who gives 'birch, beech, lime, hazel, &c.', and South (1907, and all later editions), with 'Alder, willow, and lime have also been mentioned as foodplants'. However Allan (1949) includes only birch and alder, stating '*Alnus glutinosa* — Alder (recorded from Scotland only)'. Perhaps continental foodplants are more varied: Rougeot & Viette (1978) list '*Betula*, *Corylus*, *Tilia*, *Alnus*, *Carpinus*, *Ulmus*, etc.'.

Evidence of the alder-feeding Rannoch race is provided by the T. E. D. Poore collection and notebooks in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh (reg. no. RSM NH 1969.81). A series of specimens bred from Rannoch larvae all had alder as the foodplant, the most recent collected as larvae in 1939. Most are from the Allt Druidhe, near the eastern end of the south shore of Loch Rannoch, an area now partly afforested. The Poore notebooks show that larvae were taken from small trees and that one tree was a source of larvae over several years.

The Rannoch moths are on average larger than those from Strathspey and the hindwings of the females have a pinkish flush scarcely to be seen in Strathspey specimens.

It would be interesting to know whether the Kentish Glory ever fed on birch at Rannoch. It seems likely that the sedentary habit pointed out by Marran (1981) would lead to specialized habits in different areas and perhaps to an exclusively alder-feeding population at Rannoch.

The south shore of Loch Rannoch no longer has many small alders, but there are other suitable areas around the loch and further down the Tummel in which the species possibly might still be found.

Acknowledgement

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THE PIMPINEL PUG: *EUPITHECIA PIMPINELLATA* HBN. IN WARWICKSHIRE. — After reading the splendid article on British Pugs by Brig. E. C. L. Simson in this journal, I was inspired to search for the larvae of *Eupithecia pimpinellata* amongst the Greater Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella major*), which grows in some profusion at Woodlands Quarry, Hartshill, North Warwickshire. I began searching in 1981 on the afternoon of the 15th September, the date advocated in the article, and soon found a single larva on a flower stem of the foodplant, but despite further searching over the next few days no more larvae were located. The single larva pupated on the 30th September 1981, but the adult has so far failed to emerge this summer. Identification was kindly confirmed by Steven Church and Mark Hadley of the Nature Conservancy Council, from a colour slide of the larva submitted by the writer. This is the first authenticated record of this species for Warwickshire (v.c. 38). — R. J. THOMAS, 23 Trentham Road, Hartshill, Nuneaton, Warks.

SURVIVAL OF *LIMENITIS REDUCTA* STAUDINGER (LEP., NYMPHALIDAE) IN YORKSHIRE. — During the summer of 1981, I was able to spend a period of time near Montpellier in the Department of Hérault, in Southern France. The Southern White Admiral, *L. reducta*, was widely distributed in the region, and some females which were captured laid ova freely in captivity. These ova subsequently hatched and the larvae began to feed on honeysuckle in a way very similar to that of the larvae of *L. camilla* (L.), the White Admiral. On returning to Yorkshire, most larvae continued to feed, but about six remained small and were clearly going to overwinter in this stage. Because of other commitments, these small larvae could not be tended carefully over all the winter, and so were placed outside on a honeysuckle in the garden, with no protection whatsoever, in October. During the early part of June 1982 to my surprise, two pupae were found on the honeysuckle. One had a hole in the side and appeared dead. The other, though, seemed perfect. The pupa was left in place, and a female emerged on July 3rd 1982.

The weather in Bradford during the period when the larvae were outside was in no way superior to normal. The fact that the larvae survived to the adult stage cannot, therefore be attributed to favourable conditions, and suggests that this butterfly might be able to maintain itself in the Southern Counties of England if it ever occurred in sufficient numbers. — R. J. D. TILLEY, 15 Shay Close, Bradford BD9 6SJ, W. Yorkshire.



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