

I dropped into an Oxford locality for *E. aurinia* in order to release a large number that I had bred from this same stock. A quick look also, at a favourite ride in Salcey Forest, revealed an excellent showing of *Leptidea sinapis* L. But I drew a blank for *palaemon*, though I searched assiduously several areas where it was seen as recently 1969. Some sites looked suitable, and my expectations remained high — specimens of *Lycaena phlaeas* L., half-glimpsed in the sunlight caused severe palpitations on two occasions!

Warm sunny weather was the rule in early June, and I was able to make several visits to a wood a few miles outside Southampton. *C. euphrosyne* and *C. selene* were still out in fair numbers, the first *Vanessa cardui* L. was seen, and a few larvae of *Thecla betulae* L. were obtained from blackthorns. In Southampton itself, *Ochlodes venata* Br. and Grey appeared in our garden on 10th June, and also many *cardamines* larvae on Sweet Rocket in the borders. I had never before seen Orange Tips flying anywhere near this part of Southampton, so their presence was something of a mystery.

Rather unsettled conditions prevailed from mid-June to the end of the month, and this was really the pattern for the rest of the summer. Disaster befell one of my larvae of *Apatura iris* L., which was eaten by an earwig a few hours after its fourth moult, but the other pupated on 3rd June, remained 25 days in that stage, and finally emerged during a brief moment of sunshine on a day of wild and heavy showers.

## Some Notes on *THERA juniperata* (L.) (Lep.: Geometridae) in North-West England

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I was much interested to read Mr. C. I. Rutherford's account of the occurrence of *THERA juniperata* in Cheshire and Yorkshire. (*Ent. Rec.*, 86: 121) and it stimulated me to go through the records for this district which is mainly in VC 69. The species has always seemed to be a rather elusive one in this area in spite of the occurrence of much juniper locally. In early October 1957 I made a determined effort to find this moth and visited a few of the juniper localities — on the carboniferous limestone areas at Beetham and Arnside Knott and on the Borrowdale volcanic rocks between Little Langdale and Blea Tarn in central Lakeland. In both areas I operated my light on nights when conditions seemed good, as evinced by the general numbers of other lepidoptera coming on the sheet. But nary a sign of *juniperata*. Retrospectively I now think that my search in 1957 failed because I was too early in the month, all my dates being prior to the middle of October.



In 1968 Mr. J. Briggs, who had taken up residence at Beetham and within a hundred yards of where I originally worked for the moth, took a specimen of *juniperata* resting on a wall within a few yards of his moth trap. This was of the pale southern form. He tells me that since that date he has taken the species every year except 1971. His earliest and latest dates for the moth are both in 1972 being 8th October and 6th November.

I did not myself take the species in this district until 17th October 1969 when three males came to my mv trap here at Kendal Wood which is some 630 feet above sea-level. This was a welcome occurrence. No further specimens were then noted until one found on the outside of a friend's house some three miles from me on 29th October 1973. A further record has come to my notice of a specimen taken at Ulverston on 27th October 1973 by Mr. D. W. Kydd and recorded in a locally-produced magazine — the *Natural History of Cumbria, 1973*, published by the Association of Cumbria Natural History Societies. All the specimens here noted are of the large pale southern form and quite different from race *scotica* (White) which I have had from the Aviemore district.

Past records of the species in this district are few and not, perhaps, very reliable. In *The Lepidopterous Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire* by John W. Ellis, revised by W. Mansbridge, 1940, p. 147, it states: "Scarce and local about Juniper in N. Lancs., Silverdale (A.E.W.), Warton (G.L.)". "A.E.W." refers to the late Albert E. Wright of Grange over Sands and I have in my keeping his record books. Under the present species he has written — "Heard of it being taken at Warton Crag, but never comes my way". So it would seem quite certain that Wright never took *juniperta* at Silverdale, nor elsewhere in the district. Confirmatory evidence for this comes from the notebooks kept by the late Dr. R. C. Lowther, also of Grange over Sands, and he comments: "Vague reports. Yewbarrow Crag (G. Podmore). Moth is out very late in the year and I have myself worked for it in vain. . . . Never taken by A. E. Wright."

Mr. Rutherford's suggestion that the species may have been imported with garden junipers from the south is interesting though obviously very difficult to prove — OR disprove! The specimens and records by Mr. Briggs at Beetham suggest that the species is well established there on the naturally occurring junipers in his neighbourhood. The specimens I have taken here at New Hutton are nowhere near any known juniper! Sporadic and rather widespread occurrences in these northern areas suggest either migratory tendencies or a recent northward spread such as has occurred in other species from time to time in recent years.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. J. Briggs and Mr. D. W. Kydd for information and permission to incorporate their records in this note.





Pfeiffer, Richard. 1975. "Some notes on *Thera juniperata* (L.) (Lep.: Geometridae) in north-west England." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 87, 21–22.

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