

his discovery be included in these notes. The facts are as follows:—

#### DISCOVERY OF *SORHAGENIA RHAMNIELLA* Zeller IN BRITAIN

On the 7th August Col. Emmet visited Wicken Fen and spotted numbers of small moths at rest on the old windmill preserved in the Fen. The majority of them obviously belonged to the genus *Sorhagenia* and, seeing that *Frangula alnus* was abundant in the fen and knowing that this had recently been discovered to be the foodplant of *janiszewskae*, he thought the moths would prove to be that species. However, three of the specimens were sent to Mr. Bradley for identification and he hurriedly wrote back to say they were *ramniella*—the first record of its appearance in Britain.

To quote Col. Emmet's own words: "Visits were made to Wicken Fen on the 7th, 10th and 14th August. Moths were abundant on the 7th, but fewer were seen on the 10th and very few on the 14th. I took a series of twelve, which were settled on the windmill, on the 7th, and could have taken two or three times that number had I wished. The moths flew out of *Frangula alnus* bushes at virtually every touch of the stick. It was the commonest moth on the wing".

All the evidence suggests the species is attached to *Frangula alnus* and it is hoped to discover the larvae and their method of feeding next year.

It does not seem possible at present to separate these three species by external characters alone and it is necessary to dissect the genitalia. These are figured by Dr. T. Riedl (1962, *Bull. ent. Pologne*, vol. 32, figs. 1-11), but the genitalia of *lophyrella* are figured under the name *S. tolli* Riedl which is a synonym.

Col. Emmet is to be congratulated for his discovery of *ramniella* in Britain and my thanks are due to him for allowing his discovery to be included in this article. Thanks are also recorded to Mr. Bradley for all his work in the identification of the species concerned.

## Further Records of Cardiganshire Lepidoptera, 1965

By Dr. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT

I reached Aberayron, Cardiganshire, at the start of a short holiday on 30th July this summer and pitched my caravan on a fine site high on the cliffs overlooking the sea. Dr. C. J. Goodall, of Morecambe, joined me on the evening of the 31st and we visited a locality just outside Aberayron on the Lampeter road for a night sortie with the m.v. lamps. It was very windy on the coast but inland a few miles, where this road runs at the bottom of a deep valley, conditions were quite calm and warm. Many insects came to our sheet illuminated by two m.v. lamps and we were kept busy into the small hours. We did not, unfortunately, keep a full tally of all the species attracted but the most interesting were noted. The best insect was a specimen of *Pseudoips bicolorana* Fuessl.—a species I had once before noted from a locality not many miles away (vide *Ent. Rec.*, 1954: 245). After I left to return to base Dr. Goodall stayed on and was fortunate to obtain a specimen of *Plusia bractea* Schiff. This species does not seem to be recorded from Cardiganshire in S. Gordon Smith's lists of the species of that county (*Proc. Chester Soc. Nat. Sci., Lit. and Art*, 1950



and 1951-53). At this locality near Aberayron *Apamea scolopacina* Esp. was also common and variable.

Dr. Goodall had to return home on 1st August and my wife and I then moved on to take up a pitch on a caravan site just outside Cardigan at Gwbert on Sea. We stayed here for about a week and did a modicum of collecting. Day collecting was not very remunerative but one or two nights with the m.v. lamp produced some interesting species and these are listed below. Many insects I noted are of such common general occurrence that they are not included in the list, only those of particular interest are noted. Cardiganshire seems to be a neglected county entomologically, which is a pity since it is quite obvious that it has a most interesting and varied fauna.

A=Aberayron

G=Gwbert-on-Sea district.

- Deilephila elpenor* L. One at A.  
*Notodonta ziczac* L. Frequent A. and G.  
*Thyatira batis* L. Common G.  
*Malacosoma neustria* L. Common G.  
*Drepana falcataria* L. A few A.  
*Eilema complana* L. Common G.  
*Euxoa tritici* L. Common G.  
*Euxoa vestigialis* Hufn. Common G.  
*Amathes ditrapezium* Schiff. Frequent A. and G.  
*Triphaena ianthina* Schiff. Frequent A. and G.  
*Melanchra persicariae* L. Frequent A. and G.  
*Hadena bicruris* Hufn. Two at G.  
*Leucania pallens* L. Common G.  
*Apamea scolopacina* Esp. Common and variable A.  
*Procus literosa* Haw. Common A. and G.  
*Pseudoips bicolorana* Fuessl. One at A.  
*Plusia chryson* Esp. Two at G. The foodplant is widespread and common so that it is likely the moth is also.  
\**Plusia bractea* Schiff. One only at A.  
*Plusia chrysitis* L. Frequent A. and G.  
*Rivula sericealis* Scop. Frequent A. and G.  
\**Phytometra viridaria* Cl. Common at G.  
*Pseudoterpna pruinata* Hufn. Common at G.  
*Hemithea aestivaria* Hübn. Freq. G.  
*Perizoma bifaciata* Haw. One female at G.  
*Euphyia unangulata* Haw. Common at G.  
*Epirrhoe galiata* Schiff. Common at G.  
\**Plemyria bicolorata* Hufn. One only at G.  
*Eupithecia centaureata* Schiff. One at G.  
*Eupithecia pulchellata* Steph. Freq. G.  
\**Chloroclystis coronata* Hübn. One at G.  
*Campaea margaritata* L. Common G.  
*Cleorodes lichenaria* Hufn. One at G.  
*Pempelia dilutella* Hübn. Common at G.  
*Eurrhodope marmorea* Haw. A few at G.  
\**Olethreutes rivulana* Scop. One at G.  
\**Notocelia aquana* Hübn. One at G.  
\**Notocelia uddmanniana* L. One at G.  
\**Cnephasia conspersana* Dougl. One at G.



*Eucosma cana* Haw. Common at G.

*Batia lambdella* Don. Two at G.

*Anarsia spartiella* Schrank. Two at G.

The species marked \* do not appear to have been recorded from Cardiganshire previously.

3 Thorny Hills, Kendal. 29.xi.1965.

## A Scale Defect in *Pieris napi* L.

By Dr. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT

In the *Entom. Rec.*, 76: 236, I published a short note concerning the defective development of scales on the wings of *Lysandra bellargus* Rott. taken in Yugoslavia. I had not at the time realised that I had in my collection a short series of 5 males and 4 females of *Pieris napi* exhibiting a similar deformity—perhaps in more marked degree than the *bellargus*. This series was taken in a north Lancashire fen on 25th May, 1964, when it was observed that specimens flying in the area had a yellower than normal facies. Both sexes are of a distinctly pale yellow colour and the females particularly have noticeably more transparent wings than normal. It was when making preparations of the androconia that the scale defect responsible for their curious appearance became apparent. The androconia are quite typical of any other *napi*. The main scales are all curled longitudinally and stand out from the wing membrane at a considerable angle, instead of lying quite flat as in normal specimens. Both surfaces of all wings are equally affected but it is quite clear that the deformity is restricted to the white scales. All black scales are quite normal in appearance. In one particular female the deformity is so marked that the wing-membrane is clearly visible between the scales giving the wings a hyaline, semitranslucent appearance.

In view of the fact that this series from north Lancashire had a general similarity of facies to one from Inverness-shire, I then examined the latter microscopically. These, to my surprise, showed a less well-marked development of curling of the white scales though one male has the deformity well-marked on all wings and a female exhibits it on the under surface of the hindwing only. This development on the underside gives the wing a yellower colour than normal.

I had hoped to revisit the Lancashire locality this last spring but I was away in Switzerland and could not do so. I wished to determine if the 1964 brood was a mere freak or represented the normal state of affairs in the particular colony. Obviously further work is required to assess the status of these deformed specimens and also to attempt to determine the cause of such abnormalities. It would be of great interest to have other observations concerning especially northern forms of *napi*—particularly examples from Scotland. It is hoped that this short note may stimulate those who possess yellowish or semitransparent specimens of *napi* to examine them microscopically and put on record their findings of the state of the scales they find. Should anyone have breeding records of such specimens these would be of particular interest.

3 Thorny Hills, Kendal. 27.xi.1965.





Pfeiffer, Richard. 1966. "Further records of Cardiganshire Leiodoptera, 1965." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 78, 11–13.

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