

Pieris narina oleracera (Harris) in New Jersey
(Lepidoptera: Pieridae)

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Abstract: The occurrence in New Jersey of *Pieris narina oleracera* recorded by earlier entomologists but ignored by later authors as misdeterminations has been verified by the capture of a male specimen near Springdale, Sussex County, New Jersey on July 8, 1966.

Pontia oleracera was described by Harris in 1829. The specimens before Harris when writing his original description were taken in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Possibly there is no type in existence. The type locality does not appear to have been further restricted. For the purposes of this paper it is not necessary to solve these problems. This insect which is double brooded is common throughout the Northeastern United States, Eastern Canada, and extends at least as far south as New Jersey. Originally described as a species it is now considered the spring brood of *Pieris narina* occurring in the northeastern part of the United States and Canada (dos Passos 1965, p. 136).

In Smith's List of the Insects of New Jersey (1909, p. 417) published in the Report of the New Jersey Museum two records are given for the capture of *oleracera*, the first on May 5 by John A. Grossbeck at Paterson and the second without date by John P. R. Carney at Camden. Smith states that this butterfly ". . . occurs occasionally throughout the State but more frequently in the northern portion. It is our native cabbage butterfly, which has been almost exterminated and driven out by the imported species. Only occasionally examples are now found by collectors; in some years none at all."

In Comstock's Butterflies of New Jersey (1940, p. 69) *oleracera* is not listed as occurring in that State but is referred to under *Pieris virginiensis* when he says, "Records of *oleracera* (Smith's 'List') probably refer to this species." However, *oleracera* and *virginiensis* are, in my opinion, distinct species although the later was listed by me (1965, p. 136) as a subspecies of *narina*. Reference to one does not necessarily apply to the other.

Klots (1951, p. 201) ignores the references to the occurrence of *oleracera* in New Jersey with the statement it is "Not recorded s.[outh] of the Catskill Mountains in New York."

In the forenoon of July 8, a hot, clear day while collecting near Springdale, Sussex County, New Jersey, Mrs. dos Passos captured a male *oleracera*, which was not seen by me until the following afternoon when our captures were being papered and spread. This specimen was not badly worn and was taken in a grassy meadow in an open cut below a power line. Doubtless it was a

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stray from the nearby woods. This capture on July 8 was a late emergence for *oleracera*, but it must be remembered that 1966 was a very late season, about 2 to 3 weeks late according to the writer's observations and those of other collectors in New Jersey.

Thus the capture of *oleracera* on July 8, 1966 after a lapse of 60 years not only establishes the occurrence of the species in New Jersey during the intervening years but points out the danger of ignoring old records. Certainly *oleracera* was just as well known to Professor John B. Smith, State Entomologists in 1909 and his colleagues as it is to today's entomologists.

The specimen of *Pieris narina oleracera* captured by Mrs. dos Passos has been given to the American Museum of Natural History.

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