

Sussex took place during that era – by 1973 the species had colonised suitable woodland as far south as Arundel, and by 1998 as far east as Storrington. Numbers also increased, until by the 1990s up to four specimens could be counted during an evening spent with a single mv light in the insect's leading localities. Although there have been further records made up to and including 2002, no significant events have come to notice since 1998.

*C. rubiginea* has never been unquestionably detected in East Sussex, although several dubious historical claims have been made during more than 150 years of entomological recording. The insect's local range is still restricted to the far western quarter of Sussex and is a little less than that held during the 19th century. However, a perhaps pioneering specimen whose identity was awaiting confirmation, captured by K. Ruff during late October 1992 at Burgess Hill - a town positioned just within the western vice-county boundary and 15 miles east of the nearest known colony - was, unfortunately, eaten by a mouse whilst left on the setting board. – COLIN R. PRATT, 5 View Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8DE (E-mail: colin.pratt@talk21.com).

***Eupecthecia egenaria* H.-S. (Lep.: Geometridae): the first confirmed record in Oxfordshire (VC22 Berkshire)**

On the night of 7 June 2002, I took an unusually large *Eupithecia* species at m.v. light, in my parents garden in Fernham, Oxfordshire (VC22 Berkshire). Although the specimen was worn, it was clear to me that it was not *E. intricata*, and was certainly too large to be *E. subfuscata*. I did notice that the specimen had a very broad subterminal line on both the forewing and hindwing, and was a good likeness to the specimen of *E. egenaria* figured in *An Identification Guide to the British Pugs* (British Entomological and Natural History Society). I set the moth and gave it to Martin Corley for dissection and, the next day, I was delighted to receive an e-mail from Martin confirming that it was indeed *E. egenaria*! Although this is the first confirmed record for VC22, there are two (possibly three) unconfirmed records for the county. These are:

Silwood Park, near Ascot, Berkshire (VC 22), 25.v.2001 (George Tordoff). The specimen was retained, and is currently held by Graham Jones awaiting dissection.

Abingdon area, Oxon (VC 22) during 1987. (per Martin Harvey). There are two records, by two different recorders listing slightly different site names. It is possible that they refer to the same moth and location. This data is held at the Oxfordshire Records Centre, and it is not known whether the specimen/s was kept or dissected.

The nearest Small-leaved Lime wood to Fernham is approximately 16 miles away, over the border in Wiltshire. There are, however, small pockets of common hybrid lime in and around the village. Perhaps this species has recently adapted to feeding on the common variety? This may well explain why it appears to be on the increase nationally. Another school of thought is that this particular specimen is a migrant.



Southerly winds had brought in warmer air from the Continent during the week, and the previous night's catch included the rare migrant Pyralid *Diasemiopsis ramburialis*, as well as *Orthonama obstipata*. There is a single record of *E. egenaria* from John Radford's migrant-rich garden in Walberton, West Sussex, on 1.vi.1987.

Nationally, *E. egenaria* appears to have expanded its range in recent years – or has been overlooked in the past? It was recently discovered as new to Worcestershire in 2001 by A. N. B. Simpson (*Ent. Rec.* **114**: 179-180), and has been found at several new sites in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Surrey. – STEVE NASH, 23 Henley Drive, Highworth, Wiltshire SN6 7JU (E-mail: steve@migrantmoth.com).

### **Three seldom-recorded *Lonchaea* spp. (Dipt.: Lonchaeidae) from the south-east London area**

These brief notes relate to my home district of Blackheath, in north-west Kent (south-east London), in 1965 apart from the first. Page references are to Collin, 1953. (A Revision of the British (and some other) Species of Lonchaeidae (Diptera). *Trans. Soc. Brit. ent.* **11**(9): 181-207). A noteworthy point, in my experience, is the extreme rarity of males in the field, as a rule – *L. corusca* (see below) may be an exception. I have never found a male of any of the others (common as some are) except the following, which is one of the rarest.

*Lonchaea hirticeps* Zett. – When I took a male of this “little-known species” (to quote Collin, p. 189) on a blackberry leaf in my former garden in July 1961, it was on record from only five British localities – none of them south-eastern – with only one British male known (Herefordshire). The late E. A. Fonseca kindly identified the specimen, among many others.

*L. corusca* Czerny (= *lauta* Coll., *alni* Ringd.) – Females occurred on and about a dead beech, in a lane quite close to my garden, between May and July 1971. No males were found at large, but a few were obtained from under loose portions of bark. Predictably, the tree was cut down and removed shortly afterwards. Only six British examples were known to Collin in 1953 (p. 194).

*L. peregrina* Becker. – This species, our largest, was very little known when Collin wrote; he mentions four (all isolated) British examples, and Continental breeding-records from poplar. This last point is of interest in view of my experience which fully bears them out. I met with it not very uncommonly on dying and dead *P. italica* and *Populus nigra* both standing and also felled and cut up, in two places at Blackheath (vii.65 and 66) – rather often with *L. palposa* Zett., which I have found also at Abbey Wood (a district rather than a wood) and Charlton. – A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

### **Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa* L. (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in Norfolk**

On the 13 August 2002, following several days of dull weather, my wife and I were enjoying a leisurely breakfast in brilliant morning sunshine, sitting in the living room a few feet (through the open patio door) from a buddleia bush. We were discussing



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