

A NEW TECHNIQUE OF SUGARING – While in Denmark in the spring of 1985, I was shown a sugaring technique that was new to me and might be of interest to readers of the Record:

Some ordinary clothes line is cut into lengths of about 3 metres which are boiled in soapy water to remove tars and thoroughly rinsed in clean water. They are placed in a large plastic bucket with a lid and over them is poured a saturated solution of table sugar in a bottle of cheap red wine. Before use, the contents of the bucket (with the lid firmly in place!) are thoroughly shaken to moisten the ropes with the mixture. The ropes are taken out one by one and hung across the branches of suitable trees and bushes upwind of the area to be pervaded by the odour. The idea is that each source emits odour on a much broader front than does the traditional streak of black treacle on a tree trunk, though of course fewer baits are laid. The moths which are attracted are easy to box, being strung out indeed like washing on a line. We found in Denmark that a good ten times as many specimens came to these sugar ropes than to normal sugar patches. The technique was used again this summer in France and Spain, in conditions one would not regard as ideal for sugaring. Nonetheless, there was a good attendance which included several species which do not seem to come to 'conventional' sugar. Thus I had *Deilephila elpenor* Linn. (large elephant hawk), *Plusia festucae* Linn. (gold spot), *Autographa gamma* Linn. (silver Y), *Abrostola* sp. (spectacle), *Herminia tarsicrinalis* Knoch (shaded fanfoot), *Hypena proboscidalis* Linn. (snout) and several species of Geometridae and Pyralidae as well as 'heart-stoppers' such as *Catocala electa* Vieweg (rosy underwing) and *Trachea atriplicis* Linn. (orache moth).

A further advantage is the economy of the technique. At the end of each session the ropes are gathered back into their container and can be used again and again, with occasional reinforcement with a little wine. It is a messy business, though, and one needs a handy stream or a box of 'Wet Ones' to remove stickiness. B. GOATER, 22 Reddings Avenue, Bushey, Herts, WD2 3PB.

BLASTOBASIS LIGNEA WALS. IN NOVEMBER. – On the night of 7.xi.84, a small moth flying in my kitchen proved most unexpectedly to be a fresh example of the above species (abundant here at light during August, the only month given for the imago in our literature). The fact that its congener, *B. decolorella* Woll. – formerly very rare but now likewise common here (S. E. London) – is double-brooded, with its second brood lasting into November, leads one to wonder whether *B. lignea* might not occasionally follow a similar pattern and produce a very small second brood. (That of *decolorella*, I may add, is here very much smaller than the first, and in fact I have seen but few of these late specimens.) The weather at the time was unseasonably mild. – A. A. ALLEN.



Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1986. "Blastobasis lignea Wals. in November." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 98, 37-37.

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