

AN ALBINO CINNABAR MOTH (LEP.: ARCTIIDAE) IN KENT. On 2.vi.1986 at Dungeness I obtained an albino *Tyria jacobaeae* L. in perfect condition at m.v. light. I was able to identify it readily as E. A. Cockayne (*Ent. Rec.* 63: 263) described as ab. *albescens* ab. nov. a male, *loc. incog.*, taken in 1895 with the normally dark areas, including fringes and abdomen, 'pale silvery grey' adding 'This is a beautiful albino'. I have seen this type specimen in the National Collection, together with a female from Woodchester, Glos., bred 1920. Curiously in this collection are two more labelled *albescens* in which the silvery grey is slightly less silvery and lacks the peculiar luminescence under strip lighting which is to be observed in the other two specimens; it would be interesting to know the genetic significance of this difference, assuming it is not due to the effects of killing agents, or other treatment. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

ODINIA MACULATA MG. (DIPT.) AT WINDSOR; WITH A NOTE ON TWO OTHER SPECIES IN S. E. LONDON. — *Odinia maculata* Mg. appears so far to be very rare in Britain (early records are doubtless mostly referable to *O. meijerei* Coll.). In 1952 (*Proc.R.ent.Soc. Lond.(B)*, 21:100-116) Collin separated out the true *O. maculata* and brought our two previously listed species up to four. The sole British examples of the last-named that he had seen were a pair taken by himself on a *Cossus* oak in the New Forest (1939) and one in the BMNH from Guestling, E. Sussex (1905); he remarks that the species is "obviously associated in some way with oak trees". It is fairly clear that, with one exception, these uncommon flies are connected with the sappy borings of wood- or bark-feeding beetles, and have more or less specific associations; and that, in the light of what we now know, *O. maculata* sensu Colyer & Hammond (1951, *Flies Brit.Isl.*: 239) should be *O. boletina* Zett. The true *maculata* may well have been found again, but I have seen no further record.

On 27th June, 1985, I caught a fly of this genus amongst the borings of the Buprestid beetle *Agrilus pannonicus* Pill. & Mitt. (= *biguttatus* F.) on the trunk of a large oak in Windsor Great Park heavily infested on one side by this insect. The exit holes were very numerous where the fly occurred but no other specimen could be seen. Though guessed at the time as probably *O. maculata*, its identity has only lately been confirmed; it presents all the characters given by Collin (*l.c.*) for that species. The latter bears a strong resemblance to *O. meijerei*, which during the early 1970s was not scarce on sapping elms attacked by *Scolytus* beetles (its usual habitat) in this district — Blackheath, Greenwich, and Charlton; I have heard that this was also the case in various other localities. Besides this, in my home area I have found only *O. boletina*, and that but once — on a fallen poplar, where it may have bred out of



boleti in the base of the stump. Elsewhere I have met with it in Windsor Forest on fungi of this type on beech, always on the 'gills' of the fruiting bodies. Mr. P. J. Chandler has taken a third species, *O. hendeli* Coll., in S. London (Bromley). Mr. B. H. Cogan (1968, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **104**: 252-4) has added two further species of *Odinia* to our list, whilst it is quite likely (as Collin has pointed out) that we possess also *O. ornata* Zett. Evidently, therefore, a close watch should be kept for these interesting and attractive little flies, whose facies is very characteristic. — A. A. ALLEN.

IS SCROBIPALPA COSTELLA (H. & W.) (LEPIDOPTERA: GELECHIIDAE) DOUBLE BROODED? — Emmet's Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera (1979) describes *Scrobipalpa costella* (Humphrey & Westwood, 1845) as single brooded with larvae occurring in August and September which give rise to imagines in September that overwinter until June. This species is not common in South-east Scotland due to the scarcity of its food-plant but one example reared this year appears to have adopted a different strategy. A single larva was found feeding in the lightly spun terminal shoot of woody nightshade, *Solanum dulcamara*, at Seton Bents, Longniddry, East Lothian (O.S.Grid Ref. NT/4376; V.C.82) on 18.v.1986. The plant was an isolated one growing in the shade of a thicket of sea buckthorn. Subsequently a fine large specimen of *S. costella* emerged 28.vi.1986. This example would indicate that, even in a late year like 1986, this species can be double brooded. — K. P. BLAND, 35 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3HS.

SYNCHITA SEPARANDA REITTER — A THIRD BRITISH LOCALITY — One May evening, when examining a small sycamore log in my garden in Peckham, South-East London, I discovered several specimens of what I took to be *Synchita humeralis* Fabricius. The evening was hot and humid and the beetles were active, running over the wood and crawling under the thin bark where it was loose. Considering it unusual to find any beetle on sycamore, I referred to Mr. A. A. Allens paper on *Synchita* (*Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 1964, **100**: 36-42). There was however, no mention of sycamore, but on closer examination it became apparent that my specimens were not *S. humeralis*, but *S. separanda*. Comparison with a specimen of *S. humeralis* (bred from *Daldinia concentrica* by Mr. P. Sokoloff) and dissection of the aedeagus confirmed this identification.

Mr. Allen gives two localities for *S. separanda* — Windsor Forest and Knole Park, Sevenoaks, hence my Peckham garden (coincidentally almost half way between Windsor and Knole) is the third recorded British locality.

The association with sycamore seems odd at first, but a general association with fungus is apparent from Mr. Allen's list of records. The log in question had been cut from a 50-foot sycamore tree in





Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1987. "Odinia maculata Mg. (Dipt.) at Windsor; with a note on two other species in S.E. London." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 99, 42–43.

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