

sometimes obsolete, the dorsal line sometimes interrupted by a row of brownish spots; a brownish or yellowish line below the spiracles; venter greenish, with a light or yellowish line in the middle; 10 legs; head brown or greenish, sometimes marked with about four vertical brown dashes; length 15 mm. Feeds on clover. Found from June to September.

## NOTES ON CATOCALA SAPPHO, STRECKER.

BY G. H. FRENCH, *Carbondale, Ill.*

Mr. Strecker, in noticing this beautiful species (part II of his *Lep. Rhop. et Het.*) intimates that he hesitated as to the propriety of describing it as a species, as he thought it might prove to be but a variety of *Agrippina*. Mr. G. D. Hulst, in commenting on the species in his "Catalogue of the Catocalae of North America, with Notes," (No. 2, vol. 3, of Bulletin, Brooklyn Ent. Soc.) says, "We incline very strongly to the opinion suggested by Mr. Strecker when he described it, that this very charming insect is but an extreme variety of *Agrippina*."

I can see why the namer of the species should hesitate when he already had a form of *Agrippina* with primaries suffused with white, and before him, perhaps, only a single specimen of *Sappho*; but my observations do not confirm his fears. As this is a very rare insect, and as I have been so fortunate as to capture two specimens, I will give briefly my reasons for believing it to be distinct from the allied form *Agrippina*. First. I do not know that *Agrippina* has ever been found in this State. I have hunted this region thoroughly, taking over forty different species of *Catocala*, and have never found it. Besides this, I have by considerable research and correspondence, been making a list of the *Catocalae* of Illinois, and I do not find that any one else has taken that species here.

The two specimens of *Sappho* above referred to, are as nearly alike as two specimens of *Desperata* or any other well marked species, the primaries having the two black patches extending from the costa, well defined; these and all the other marks agreeing with the figure accompanying Mr. Strecker's description. To find so well marked a form in such widely separated localities as Texas, Georgia and Illinois, all the examples agreeing with each other, and with no intergrades is in my mind, strong proof of its specific value. *Cara*, *Lachrymosa* and others have their well marked varieties, but in the extreme forms they usually vary somewhat, while the intergrades are more common than the extreme varieties. For these reasons, I am of the opinion that *Sappho* is a good species.



French, G. H. 1881. "Notes on *Catocala sappho*, Strecker." *Papilio* 1(4), 57–57.

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