

Fig. 1. Eurodryas aurinia Rott. ab. virgata Tutt (×1.5 life size).

during a 6-year period of extreme abundance of the species (1894–1899). When the population stabilized aberrations were hard to find. (R. M. Craske (*pers. comm.*) made similar observations during a population explosion of the species near Plaistow, Sussex in 1945/6.) The authors attributed this phenomenon to the fact that weaker, aberrant individuals would have a chance to survive to become adults during a period in which the population was increasing in size from a point far below its average towards its optimum size. This is because, during a period of increasing population size, selection would be less intensive than when the population reached its optimum level.

## REFERENCES

Berry, R. J. 1977. Inheritance and natural history. Collins, London.

Ford, H. D. & Ford, E. B. 1930. Fluctuations in numbers, and its influence on variation in Melitaea aurinia Rott. (Lepidoptera). Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 78: 345-351.

Ford, E. B. 1945. Butterflies. Collins, London.

Ford, E. B. 1964. Ecological genetics. Chapman and Hall, London.

Kettlewell, B. 1973. The evolution of melanism: the study of a recurring necessity. Oxford University Press.

Porter, K. J. 1989. Eurodryas aurinia. In: Emmet, A. M. & Heath, J. (Eds). The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland 7(1): 234-237. Colchester, Harley Books.

Robinson, R. 1971. Lepidoptera genetics. Pergamon Press, Oxford.

Robinson, R. 1990. Genetics of European Butterflies. In: Kudrna, O. (Ed.) Butterflies of Europe. Volume 2. Aula-Verlag, Wiesbaden.

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

The white-letter hairstreak in south-east London.—One the warm and muggy morning of 17.vii.1994 a large *Buddleja* bush in Nunhead Cemetery, London SE15, attracted only a single butterfly, a rather battered white-letter hairstreak, *Strymonidia w-album* (Knoch). This was the first time I had encountered the species in Nunhead, although a dead hairstreak caterpillar was brought to me, from the cemetery, some years ago. The several hundred large English elms, *Ulmus procera* Salisb., which punctuated the cemetery grounds were killed in the 1970s by Dutch elm disease; many of their trunks still lie prostrate in wooded corners. Suckers and sapplings are regenerating; they now reach about 6 m high and the disease is reappearing to kill a few each year. The butterfly is obviously very local in the London area, but its appearance in Nunhead (vice-county 17, "Surrey") may support ideas that it is recolonizing as elms regrow.—Richard A. Jones, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.



Jones, Richard. 1994. "The white-letter hairstreak in south-east London." *British journal of entomology and natural history* 7, 98–98.

View This Item Online: <u>https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/121980</u> Permalink: <u>https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/94725</u>

**Holding Institution** Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

**Sponsored by** Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection. Rights Holder: British Entomological and Natural History Society

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org.