

GENERAL NOTES

THE LARCH CASEBEARER, *COLEOPHORA LARICELLA* (HÜBNER) (COLEOPHORIDAE), IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

The larch casebearer, *Coleophora laricella* (Hübner), is a Palearctic moth which was first reported from the Pacific Northwest in 1957 by Denton (1958, U.S. For. Serv. Res. Note 51:1-6). Denton and Tunnock (1971, U.S.D.A. For. Pest Leaflet 96: fig. 1) mapped the species' range in the northwestern United States and adjacent parts of Canada. Since 1971, field parties from the University of Washington, Seattle, have observed larvae on western larch, *Larix occidentalis* Nuttall, from two localities on the east slope of the Washington Cascades Range: Chelan Co., 12.5 km SW Leavenworth, Bridge Creek Campground; and Kittitas Co., 8.8 km SE Cle Elum, Elk Heights. In March 1981, I found third instar larvae feeding on the new foliage of a European larch, *L. decidua* Miller in King Co., Seattle, Univ. Washington campus. Individuals were subsequently reared and voucher specimens deposited in the collection of the University of Washington College of Forest Resources. In the spring of 1981 and 1982, infestations of this moth were found on European larch at Green Lake, about four kilometers northwest of the campus.

Mr. Richard Johnsey, State Forest Entomologist, Washington Department of Natural Resources, who maintains western Washington records of pest insects, informed me that *C. laricella* had not been previously reported west of the Cascades in this state. How the moth crossed the Cascades (the lowest pass is 922 m) is conjectural. Prevalent winds are normally from west to east or north to south. The species may have been transported with nursery stock, or its spread westward may be natural.

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THE GESNERIACEAE AND BIGNONIACEAE AS FOOD-PLANTS OF THE LEPIDOPTERA

Robert K. Robbins and Annette Aiello in their paper, *Foodplant and Oviposition Records for Panamanian Lycaenidae and Riodinidae* (1982, J. Lepid. Soc., 36(2):65-75), with their single record of a gesneriad as a lepidopterous food-plant and their quotation from Ehrlich and Raven's 1964 paper, *Butterflies and plants, a study in co-evolution*, that plants belonging to the Gesneriaceae, Bignoniaceae and Begoniaceae are not used or are under-utilized as lepidopterous food-plants, reminded me of a recent experience.

We have in East Africa a number of indigenous Gesneriaceae, including the wild ancestor of the very popular African Violet, or *Saintpaulia*, as well as numerous introduced species grown as pot plants in greenhouses and open verandahs, but I have only recently obtained a record of a gesneriad being eaten by a lepidopterous larva. On two separate occasions larvae of the polyphagous sphingid, *Coelonia mauritii* Btlr., have been found feeding on *Aeschynanthus marmoratus*, an introduced cultivar from Thai-

land, growing in a hanging basket suspended from the roof of an open-sided orchid house in Mombasa.

The following food-plants have previously been recorded for *C. mauritii*: *Acanthus* (Acanthaceae), *Cissus* (Ampelidaceae), *Bignonia*, *Fernandoa magnifica*, *Markhamia platycalyx*, *Millingtonia hortensis*, *Newbouldia imperialis*, *Spathodea*, *Tecoma*, *Tecomaria* (Bignoniaceae), *Cordia* (Boraginaceae), *Dahlia* (Compositae), *Convolvulus*, *Ipomaea* (Convolvulaceae), *Coleus*, *Pycnostachys*, *Salvia* (Labiatae), *Buddleia*, *Lachnopylis* (Loganiaceae), *Jasminum* (Oleaceae), *Lycopersicum*, *Nicotiana*, *Solanum* (Solanaceae), *Hebe speciosa* (Scrophulariaceae), *Clerodendron*, *Duranta*, *Lantana*, *Stachytarpheta indica* (Verbenaceae).

Contrary to Ehrlich and Raven's comment, the Bignoniaceae do provide food-plants for a considerable number of Lepidoptera, mostly Heterocera it is true, in East Africa, but I have far fewer records for India. Below is a complete list of my records:

Bignonia—*Spilosoma investigatorum* Karsch (Arctiidae), *Acherontia atropos* L., *Coeonia mauritii* Btlr. (Sphingidae); *Fernandoa*—*Cymothoe coranus* Gr. Sm. (Nymphalidae), *Epiphora mythimnia* Westw. (Saturniidae), *C. mauritii* (Sphingidae), *Mazuca strigicincta* Wlk. (Noctuidae), *Hyblaea euryzona* Prout (Pyralidae); *Jacaranda*—*Pachypasa sericeofasciata* Auriv. (Lasiocampidae); *Kigelia*—*C. coranus*, *Asterope boisduvali* Wllgrn. (Nymphalidae), *Mussidia nigrivenella* Rag., *M. fiorii* T. & deJ., *Zebronia phenice* Cr., *Udea ablactalis* Wlk. (Pyralidae); *Podranea*—*A. atropos* (Sphingidae); *Markhamia*—*Euproctis molundiana* Auriv. (Lymantriidae), *Pachypasa subfascia* Wlk., *Pseudometa castanea* Hamps. (Lasiocampidae), *Phiala atomaria* Holl. (Eupterotidae), *C. mauritii*, *Macropoliana natalensis* Btlr., *Andriasa contraria* Wlk. (Sphingidae), *Peraetodonta oliaceae* Gaede (Notodontidae), *Latotia chapmani* Kirby, *L. hexamitobalia* Tams, *L. vivida* Wlk., *L. urda* Druce, *L. viridicosta* Hamps. (Limacodidae), *Salagena atridisca* Hamps. (Metarbelidae), *Lycophotia ablactalis* Wlk., *M. strigicincta* (Noctuidae), *Comibaena leucospilata* Wlk. (Geometridae), *Hyblaea puera* Cr., *H. euryzona*, *Polygrammodes junctilinealis* Hamps., *Z. phenice*, *Pyrausta fulvilinealis* Hamps. (Pyralidae); *Millingtonia*—*Hypolycaena philippus* F. (Lycaenidae), *A. atropos*, *C. mauritii*, *Pemba favillacea* Wlk. (Sphingidae); *Newbouldia*—*Argyrostroma niobe* Weym. (Lymantriidae), *Agrius convolvuli* L., *C. mauritii*, *A. contraria* (Sphingidae); *Spathodea*—*Holocera smilax* Ang. (Saturniidae), *A. atropos*, *C. mauritii*, *M. natalensis*, *Poliana witgensis* Strd., *A. contraria*, *Cephonodes hylas* L., *Hippotion osiris* Dalm. (Sphingidae), *Z. phenice* (Pyralidae); *Stereospermum*—*P. subfascia* (Lasiocampidae), *Z. phenice* (Pyralidae); *Tecoma*—*A. atropos*, *C. mauritii* (Sphingidae), *U. ablactalis* (Pyralidae); *Tecomaria*—*Spilosoma lutescens* Wlk. (Arctiidae), *A. atropos*, *C. mauritii* (Sphingidae). My Indian records are the sphingids *Acherontia styx* Westw., *A. lachesis* F., and *Psilogramma menephron* Cr. on species of *Tecoma*, *Stereospermum*, *Bignonia* and *Spathodea*; presumably *Hyblaea puera* also feeds on Bignoniaceae in India, but I have no records.

The Begoniaceae is another story, the only East African record I have is *Bracharoa quadripunctata* Wllgrn. (Lymantriidae) on *Begonia* sp., and for India the sphingids *Theretra clotho* Drury, *T. latreillei* Macleay and *Rhyncholaba acteus* Cr., also on *Begonia* spp.

I cannot help feeling that Ehrlich and Raven would have come to some very different conclusions if they had included the Heterocera in their survey.

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