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A NEW NOCTUID FROM MICHIGAN AND TENNESSEE (LEPIDOPTERA)*

BY J. H. NEWMAN

IN the course of collection and study of the Lepidoptera of Michigan during a number of years I have taken twenty-two specimens of a Noctuid moth which closely resembles *Oligia diversicolor* Morrison. Slight but constant differences in size, color, and wing markings first led to its recognition as distinct from that species. Subsequent checking with major collections in the United States and Canada and the discovery of striking genitalic characters have confirmed its distinctness and have shown that it is new to science. It is named and described as follows:

Oligia ambifusca, new species

HOLOTYPE.— Male, Parkdale, near Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan, September 6, 1945; allotype: female, near South Lyon, Livingston County, Michigan, September 9, 1946 (both collected by J. H. Newman).

DIAGNOSIS.—This species differs from its closest ally, *O. diversicolor* Morrison, in its smaller size, darker over-all color, obvious basal streak, and more upright course of the antemedial line of the forewing.

* Contribution from the Detroit Entomological Society.

DESCRIPTION.—Proboscis fully developed; palpi upturned, the second segment reaching to about middle of frons and fringed with hair in front, the third segment short, blunt, naked; frons smooth; eyes large, rounded; antennae of male ciliated; head and thorax clothed chiefly with scales, the prothorax and metathorax with spreading crests; tibiae moderately fringed with hair; abdomen with dorsal series of crests on basal segments. Forewing triangular, the apex rounded, the termen evenly curved; veins[1] 3 and 5 from near angle of cell; 6 from upper angle; vein 9 from 10 anastomosing with 8 to form the areole; 11 from cell. Hind wings with veins 3, 4 from angle of cell; 5 obsolescent from just below angle of discocellulars; 6, 7 from upper angle; 8 anastomosing with the cell near base only.

Head and thorax a mixture of gray and brown, appearing grayish brown, the scales of thorax dark-tipped. Palpi brown with the sides a darker shade. Abdomen light grayish brown, the dorsal crest black-tipped. Forewing smoky grayish with some rufous scaling in the basal and medial areas. Subbasal line represented by a short black dash, outwardly marked with whitish on the costa. There is a definite black basal streak extending to the antemedial line. Antemedial line geminate, outlined in black, and filled with light grayish, the course a little irregular and oblique, obscured at the costa and extending from directly beneath the orbicular where it is notched, then slightly arched outwardly to inner margin. Claviform represented by an ill-defined dark smudge. Orbicular large, elongate, reclining, outlined with black except at costa and below, where it is open, filled with some rufous and grayish scaling. Reniform pale, upright, and ill-defined, cut off inwardly by the darker medial area, and outwardly marked by the slightly darker gray ground color. Postmedial line marked on the costa by a point of lighter gray than the ground color, turning abruptly outward along the subcostal vein, then parallel to outer margin to vein 3, then curved in-

[1] The terminology of venation and wing markings here used is that of G. F. Hampson.

ward to inner margin. The inner side of the line is almost lunulate between veins 3 and 5, and is sharply defined inwardly by a black line bordering the median area at the inner margin. There is an irregular pale subterminal line and a series of venular black points between this and the postmedial line. Terminal line black, vaguely interrupted at the veins. Cilia brownish, tipped with darker, and with a fine line running through them. Hind wing smoky, fuscous brown with a slight sheen, and indistinct postmedial and terminal lines. Underside moderately irrorate and brownish, with a prominent discoidal spot on hind wings. Wing expanse, 30 mm.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—Eighteen males, 4 females (holotype, allotype, paratypes) as follows:

Michigan: Parkdale, near Rochester, Oakland County, August 26 and September 3, 1944, 3 males; September 4, 1945, 1 male; September 6, 1945, 2 males (holotype, and paratype of which genitalia are figured); September 5, 6, and 7, 1947, 6 males, 1 female. Livingston County, near South Lyon in Oakland County, September 9, 1946, 1 male, 1 female (allotype); September 16, 1946, 1 male; September 19, 1946, 1 female; September 2, 1947, 1 female; September 12 and 14, 1947, 2 males. E. S. George Reserve, Livingston County, September 9, 1947, 1 male. (All collected by J. H. Newman).

Tennessee: 12 miles west of Lawrenceburg, Lawrence County, August 24, 1924 (T. H. Hubbell), 1 male.

The holotype, allotype, figured male paratype, and paratype from Tennessee are deposited in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; other paratypes are in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, the United States National Museum, the Canadian National Collection at Ottawa, and the private collections of A. E. Brower and J. H. Newman.

VARIATION—This is apparently slight. The course of the antemedial line of the forewings is somewhat more arcuate in some examples than in others, and there is also some variability in the amount of rufous scaling in the basal and

median areas. The average wing expanse of all examples is 26.5 mm.

DISCUSSION.—All specimens were taken at light. Those from Parkdale were collected at a lighted sheet on a projecting knoll which is covered with mixed hardwoods and overlooks a swampy area bordering a branch of the Clinton River. The specimens from near South Lyon were taken at porch lights which shine over a typical glacial basin with black mucky soil and a growth of *Typha latifolia* and species of *Carex*. The individual taken on the George Reserve came to a lighted sheet on an esker ridge known as Little Hogback. This ridge, thinly forested with hardwoods, separates a depression occupied by more mesic forest on the north from a glacial kettle occupied by a leatherleaf-sphagnum bog to the south. Thus, in each instance swampy areas with mucky soils lay within the range of the lights. The present supposition is that the larva of *Oligia ambifusca* feeds on some species of *Carex*, which is a rather general food plant of other species of this genus, including the closely related *O. diversicolor* Morrison.

I am indebted to J. McDunnough for comparing the genitalia of the new species with those of *diversicolor*, and for preparing the slides from which the accompanying illustrations were made by Miss Grace Eager, artist of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. I wish to thank the Museum of Zoology for these drawings and the photograph of the type of the new species.

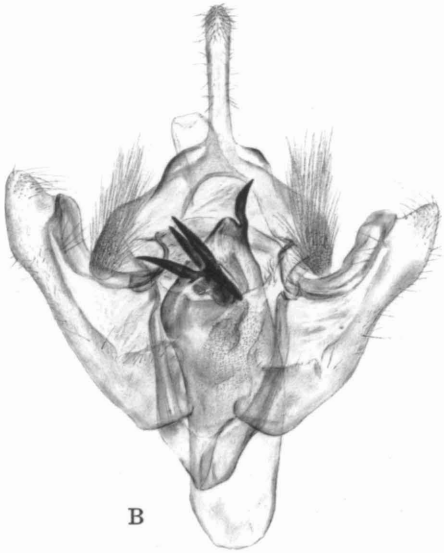
PLATE I

Male genitalia of *Oligia ambifusca*, new species and *O. diversicolor* Morrision, drawn from translucent slide mounts by Grace Eager.

A. Oligia diversicolor, Morrison. Mystic, Connecticut, October 6, 1924 (American Museum of Natural History).

B. Oligia ambifusca, new species. Parkdale, near Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan, September 6, 1945 (paratype, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan).

A



B

Grace Eager '47

PLATE II

Male holotype of *Oligia ambifusca*, new species.