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NEW LARVAL HOST PLANT AND BEHAVIOR OF *CHLOSYNE GORGONE* (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE)

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On 31 July 1994, at 1600 hr, an aggregation of eight larvae of *Chlosyne gorgone* (Hübner) was found at Bush Clover Prairie, in Grant Co., Wisconsin. The larvae were feeding on the upper surface of a leaf of *Echinacea pallida* (Asteraceae), eating away the top tissue and leaving the translucent lower epidermis in place in an area about 1 cm wide and 4 cm long, oriented lengthwise along the lanceolate leaf. The larvae were taken to rear out in the lab, where leaves of *E. pallida* were positioned vertically, as they normally grow, and all feeding was as described above. Two of the larvae molted twice, pupated, and reached adulthood on 18 August 1994. Because of the rarity of *C. gorgone* in Wisconsin and the small size of the prairie on which these were found, these adults were photographed and released where they had been collected on the following day, at which time other adults of *C. gorgone* were present. The other six larvae failed to molt and are preserved in the Insect Research Collection of the Entomology Department of the University of Wisconsin–Madison as the author's specimen #1671.

Many such feeding holes were subsequently noticed in the leaves of *E. pallida* at this site. Over time, the lower epidermis exposed by larval feeding dried to a dark brown and then disintegrated, leaving holes through the leaf of characteristic shape, about 1 cm wide and up to 7 cm long, always oriented lengthwise along the leaf.

This is the first report of *C. gorgone* larvae feeding on the leaves of *E. pallida*. Reported larval host plants include *Helianthus* spp., including *H. laetiflorus*, *Aster* spp., *Ambrosia trifida*, *Iva xanthifolia*, *Viguiera multiflora*, *Silphium* sp. and *Rudbeckia* sp., all in the Asteraceae, and *Lysimachia* sp., crosswort, in the Primulaceae (Ebner 1970, Tietz 1972, Ferris & Brown 1981, Opler & Krizek 1984, Sedman & Hess 1985, Scott 1986, Heitzman & Heitzman 1987, Royer 1988, Acorn 1993). Tietz (1972) lists *Eriogonum* sp., in the Polygonaceae, but more recent authors fail to mention this. Neither *C. gorgone* larvae nor evidence of their feeding was found on the single clone of *H. laetiflorus* present at Bush Clover Prairie. Other potential host plants present include *Helianthus occidentalis*, *Aster azureus*, *A. ericoides*, *A. laevis*, *A. novae-angliae*, *A. pilosus*, *Ambrosia trifida*, *Silphium laciniatum*, and *Rudbeckia hirta*. Though neither *C. gorgone* larvae nor evidence of their feeding was seen on these other plants, their larger populations precluded sufficiently close observation to rule out their use by these larvae at this site.

This is the first report of *C. gorgone* larvae feeding on the upper surfaces of leaves. Young larvae have been reported to feed gregariously (Heitzman & Heitzman 1987), and to do so on the underside of leaves (Scott 1986).

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