Notes on the Life Histories of *Chlosyne* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) and *Agrypon* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae)

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NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORIES OF CHLOSYNE (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) AND AGRYON (HYMENOPTERA: ICHNEUMONIDAE)

Andrew H. Williams

ABSTRACT

Ambrosia trifida is reported for the first time as a larval food plant of Chlosyne nycteis. Chlosyne nycteis and C. harrisii are reported as hosts of Agrypon prismaticum and A. alpinum, respectively; the first report of wasps in Agrypon parasitizing species in Nymphalidae.

On 1 August 1995, two last-instar larvae of Chlosyne nycteis (Doubleday & Hewitson) were found at Bush Clover Prairie, in Grant County, Wisconsin. The larvae were feeding on leaves of Ambrosia trifida (Asteraceae) in a disturbed area at the edge of woods. They fed on leaves of A. trifida in the lab, where they later pupated. An adult butterfly emerged from one pupa on 13 August 1995; an ichneumonid wasp, Agrypon prismaticum (Norton) emerged from the other on 28 August 1995. The wasp was determined using the key in Dasch (1984) (det. conf. J. Luhman 1996).

In determining this wasp, other Agrypon wasps in the Insect Research Collection (IRC) at University of Wisconsin-Madison were studied, one of which shared a pin with a pupa similar to C. nycteis. This pupa was determined as C. harrisii (Scudder 1916), and by comparison with pupae of Euphydryas phaeton (Drury) and C. nycteis. Collection data are: "Barry Co., Mich., Yankee Springs, 15 June '69, L. J. Bayer, pupae on Cornus in marsh, em. 7 July '69." These are appropriate range, date and habitat data for C. harrisii. This wasp is Agrypon alpinum (Davis) (det. C. Dasch 1983). Plant nomenclature follows Kartesz (1994).

DISCUSSION


This is the first report of the ichneumonid wasps in the genus Agrypon.

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parasitizing species in Nymphalidae. The literature (summarized in Dasch 1984) documents various other families in Lepidoptera that include hosts suitable to Agrypon.

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LITERATURE CITED


