

The Great Lakes Entomologist

Volume 36
Numbers 3 & 4 - Fall/Winter 2003 *Numbers 3 &
4 - Fall/Winter 2003*

Article 6

October 2003

Feeding Records of Caterpillars (Lepidoptera) From Wisconsin Prairies and Savannas

Andrew H. Williams
University of Wisconsin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle>



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Williams, Andrew H. 2003. "Feeding Records of Caterpillars (Lepidoptera) From Wisconsin Prairies and Savannas," *The Great Lakes Entomologist*, vol 36 (2)
Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle/vol36/iss2/6>

This Peer-Review Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Biology at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Great Lakes Entomologist by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

FEEDING RECORDS OF CATERpillARS (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM WISCONSIN PRAIRIES AND SAVANNAS

Andrew H. Williams¹

ABSTRACT

Basic to our understanding of any animal and its habitat requirements is knowing what it eats. Presented here are feeding observations of 18 species of caterpillars encountered in Wisconsin prairies and savannas over 1992-2002. These food plants are previously unreported for these insects.

Knowing what an animal eats is basic to our understanding of that animal and its habitat requirements. Over 1992-2002, I accumulated many observations of insects feeding in the prairies and savannas of southwestern Wisconsin. Caterpillars found feeding were reared in the lab on the same plant species on which they had been found. The adult specimens were then given to the Insect Research Collection of the Entomology Department at University of Wisconsin – Madison. Food plants presented in Table 1 are previously unreported for the 18 species in 10 families of Lepidoptera listed. Other, similar results from this research can be found in Williams (1995, 1997, 1999, 2003).

Unless otherwise noted in Table 1, I collected these insects and identified these insects and plants. Plant nomenclature herein follows Gleason and Cronquist (1991).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My prairie insect research over 1992-2002 was supported, in part, by grants from The Prairie Enthusiasts - Southwest Chapter, Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin, Lois Almon Small Grants Program, Natural History Museums Council of UW - Madison, The Nature Conservancy, the Cooperative Prairie Insect Project administered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and supported by a grant from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership for Wildlife Grant Program, and several private donors, support for which I am most grateful. Many individuals were in other ways supportive of my research, notably these, in the context of this paper: M. Anderson, G. Balogh, M. Black, A. Blattner, C. Brabant, R. Christoffel, J. Dunford, G. Eldred, L. Ferge, J. Gruber, G. Johnson, K. Katovich, S. Krauth, N. Kriska, D. LeDoux, A. Lisberg, D. Mahr, B. Mandernack, J. Maxwell, E. Metzler, E. Munroe, M. Nielsen, M. & R. Norman, G. Parsons, M. Price, A. Ramsdale, D. Schlicht, J. & R. Sime, S. Statz, A. & S. Swengel, J. Trager and M. Ulrich. This work simply could not have been done without the help of E. Williams and D. Young.

LITERATURE CITED

- Gleason, H. A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. N. Y. Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.
- Williams, A. H. 1995. New larval host plant and behavior of *Chlosyne gorgone* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Gt. Lakes Entomol. 28:93-94.
- Williams, A. H. 1997. Notes on the life histories of *Chlosyne* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) and *Agrypion* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae). Gt. Lakes Entomol. 30:65-66.

¹Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, 53706.

2003

THE GREAT LAKES ENTOMOLOGIST

153

- Williams, A. H. 1999. Arthropod fauna using the plant *Onosmodium molle* in Wisconsin. pp. 165-171. *In*: Springer, J. T. (ed.), Central Nebraska loess hills prairie, 16th North American Prairie Conf. Proc., Dept. of Biology, University of Nebraska at Kearney.
- Williams, A. H. 2003. *Oxyptolis rigidior*, a new larval food plant record for *Papilio polyxenes* (Papilionidae). J. Lep. Soc. 57:149-150.

Table 1. Observations of caterpillars feeding on previously unreported food plants.

Species Name	Food Plant	Plant Structure Fed Upon & Notes
Arctiidae		
<i>Estigmene acrea</i> (Drury)	<i>Liatrix aspera</i>	side of inflorescence, florets
<i>Spilosoma virginica</i> (Fabricius)	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	leaf
	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	leaf
Lycaenidae		
<i>Everes comyntas</i> (Godart) ¹	<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	developing loment
Noctuidae		
<i>Catabena lineolata</i> Walker ¹	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	youngest leaves
<i>Crambodes talidiformis</i> Guenee ¹	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	youngest leaves
<i>Papaipema arcivorens</i> Hampson ¹	<i>Cacalia atriplicifolia</i>	stem borer
<i>Pyrrhia adela</i> Lafontaine & Mikkola ¹	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	developing loment
	<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	developing loment, small caterpillars ate
		youngest leaves, flower buds and flowers
Notodontidae		
<i>Datana ministra</i> (Drury) ¹	<i>Pyrus ioensis</i>	leaves
Nymphalidae		
<i>Chlosyne gorgone</i> (Hubner)	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	leaves
<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i> (Drury)	<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>	leaves, last instar larvae
<i>Polygonia interrogatoris</i> (Fabricius)	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	leaves
Oecophoridae		
<i>Agonopterix lythrella</i> (Walsingham) ²	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i>	feeding in sewn shoot tips
Pyralidae		
<i>Herpetogramma pertextalis</i> (Lederer) ³	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	in tube of young leaves
<i>Uresiphita reversalis</i> (Guenee) ¹	<i>Baptisia lactea</i>	leaves

Table 1. Continued.

Species Name	Food Plant	Plant Structure Fed Upon & Notes
Saturniidae <i>Automeris io</i> (Fabricius)	<i>Apios americana</i>	leaf
Sphingidae <i>Hyles lineata</i> (Fabricius) ¹	<i>Oenothera clelandii</i>	flowers and bracts
Tortricidae <i>Choristoneura rosaceana</i> (Harris) ²	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	in rolled leaf, desired but unreachable by ant <i>Formica subsericea</i> Say ¹
<i>Sparganothis sulfureana</i> (Clemens) ²	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	in folded leaf

1 Determined by L. Ferge.

2 Determined by E. Metzler.

3 Determined by E. Munroe.

4 Determined by J. Trager.