

The Great Lakes Entomologist

Volume 40

Number 3 & 4 - Fall/Winter 2007 Number 3 & 4 -
Fall/Winter 2007

Article 1

October 2007

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David B. MacLean
Youngstown State University

John Luhman
Biological Control Scientist

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Recommended Citation

MacLean, David B. and Luhman, John (2007) "New Record of *Vanessa Virginiensis* (Drury) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) as a Host of *Thyrateles Procax* (Cresson) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae)," *The Great Lakes Entomologist*: Vol. 40 : No. 2 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle/vol40/iss2/1>

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**NEW RECORD OF *VANESSA VIRGINIENSIS* (DRURY)
(LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) AS A HOST OF *THYRATELES
PROCAX* (CRESSON) (HYMENOPTERA: ICHNEUMONIDAE)**

David B. MacLean¹ and John Luhman²

ABSTRACT

On 4 August, 2005 a male *Thyrateles procax* (Cresson) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) emerged from a pupa of *Vanessa virginiensis* (Drury) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) which was contained within a screened cage in Cook County, MN. This is the first published record of *Vanessa virginiensis* as a host of *Thyrateles procax*. Adults of *T. procax* appear to be rare, as only two old records (both males) are known from Minnesota (University of Minnesota, Insect Collection)

This note reports the first published record of *Vanessa virginiensis* (Drury) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) as a host of *Thyrateles procax* (Cresson) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae). On 4 August 2005, a male ichneumon wasp, later determined by the second author to be *T. procax* emerged from a pupa of *V. virginiensis* which was contained within a screened cage in Cook County, MN. A late instar larva of *V. virginiensis* was discovered ca. 10 days earlier wandering outdoors and placed in a cage along with three other *V. virginiensis* larvae that had been reared on *Anaphalis margaritacea* (L.) (Pearly Everlasting). *A. margaritacea* is a known larval host of *V. virginiensis* (Scott 1986) and is common in Cook County, MN. Four larvae (including the one discovered outdoors away from its host plant) had pupated within the cage by late July. Two adult *V. virginiensis* emerged on 1 August 2005 and a third on 4 August. Additionally, on 4 August, a male *T. procax* emerged from the remaining *V. virginiensis* pupa. As all *V. virginiensis* larvae, except one, were reared from eggs collected on *A. margaritacea* and placed within a screened cage, we suspect that the late instar larva discovered wandering outdoors was most likely parasitized by *T. procax*. The adult wasp and the host pupa containing the last larval instar exuvium were pinned and placed in the first author's collection. Adults of *T. procax* (both males) appear to be rare as only two other specimens of *T. procax* are known from Minnesota (University of Minnesota, Insect Collection).

Species of *Thyrateles* mainly parasitize larvae of Nymphalidae (species of *Polytonia*, *Vanessa* and possibly *Oeneis*) (Heinrich 1960). Peck (1964) lists *V. virginiensis* and *Vanessa cardui* (L.) as larval hosts of *Thyrateles lugubator* (Gravenhorst) and *Nymphalis antiopa* (L.) as a host of *T. procax*. A search of the Zoological Record and Entomology Abstracts from 1980 to the present revealed no additional host records for *T. procax*.

LITERATURE CITED

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¹Professor Emeritus, Youngstown State University, current address: 76 Walter Rd. Grand Marais MN 55604.

² Biological Control Scientist.

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