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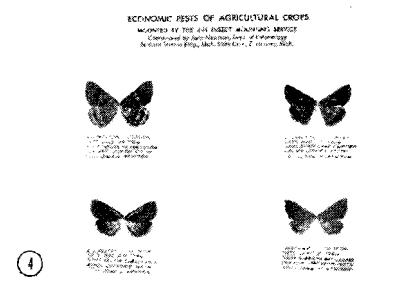
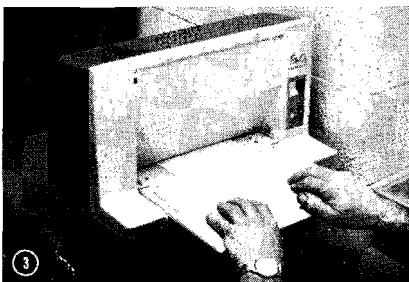
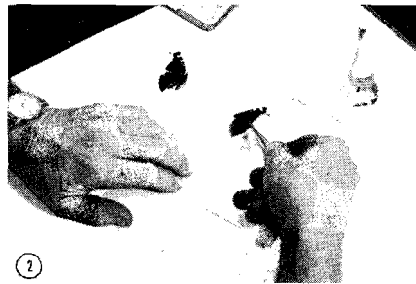
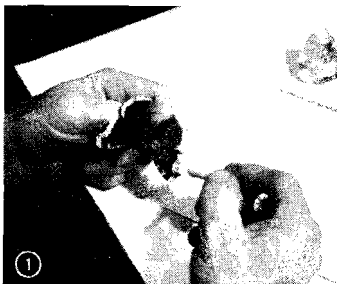
LAMINATING LEPIDOPTERA FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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A convenient method of teaching farmers, 4-H members and students to recognize various species of Lepidoptera is now being used in Michigan with wide success. In the process, insect wings are mounted on cardboard and sealed between layers of clear plastic. The resulting 'laminations' have several advantages over pin-mounted Lepidoptera, and are admirably suited for any use that requires constant handling. The finished mounts are impervious to museum pests, are dust-proof, may be cleaned with ease, and are easily stored in a loose-leaf binder. The plastic is flexible, thus danger of damage from bending is slight.

Specimens chosen for the lamination process should be typical ones, in first-class condition. The insects are mounted on pins, spread and dried in the normal fashion. A thin coat of clear nail polish is then applied to the undersides of the wings where the primaries overlap the secondaries; thus they are held together in the position in which they were mounted (Fig. 1). When the polish is dry, each pair of wings is gently seized near the thorax with entomological forceps, and severed from the body with a slight twisting motion.



Figures 1-4, steps in the process of laminating wings of Lepidoptera. Fig. 1, applying nail polish to glue fore- and hindwings together. Figure 2, affixing the wings to the card, Fig. 3, inserting the card in the laminating machine. Fig. 4, the finished product, in this case one of the many cards produced to illustrate economic pests. Photos by Julian P. Donahue.

The wings are now fixed to a sheet of light white cardboard which serves as the central element in the laminated "sandwich" (Fig. 2). They may be held in place by a few drops of nail polish, and should be close together so as to simulate a pin-mounted appearance. If desired, faint pencil lines may be drawn on the cardboard to facilitate neat and symmetrical mounting; these may be carefully erased afterwards. The scientific and common names of the insect are written in India ink below the specimen, the process is repeated for each butterfly or moth to be included, and the mount is ready for laminating.

The procedure for this final step depends upon the type of machine used. The mounts produced at Michigan State University for 4-H use and pest identification are processed in an Apeco "Ply-on" laminator. The cardboard sheet containing the specimens is inserted between two rollers at the front (Fig. 3) and the finished mount appears shortly behind. After trimming with a pair of shears, the lamination is ready for use (Fig. 4).

Laminations are not designed to replace the standard method of mounting and storing Lepidoptera, and it should be remembered that only a well-labeled collection of pinned insects has lasting scientific value. Nevertheless, plastic mounts are very convenient and inexpensive teaching aids (an 8 1/2" x 11" lamination costs approximately twenty cents) and certainly other uses will be found for them; the method is even now being adapted to the more fragile insect orders. Further information may be had from the coordinator of the program, John H. Newman, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

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## ERRATA, VOL. 1, NO. 2

We regret that several errors appeared in our paper on *Phragmatobia*. The additions and corrections are as follows. P. 38, between PM and UMMZ, insert "ROM Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario (Glenn B. Wiggins and J.C.E. Riotte)." P. 46, last line under Illinois, change "2♀" to "3♀"; the third specimen, erroneously referred to in the paper as *P. fuliginosa*, is not designated as a paratype. P. 46, last line, add "Clarke, 21 May 1905, A. K. Wyatt, 1♀ (CNHM)"; this small specimen was mistakenly listed as *P. fuliginosa* on p. 52. P. 52, 4th line under Colorado, the Hayden Mts. specimen is from Ouray Co. P. 52, last line under Illinois, delete Peoria Co. record. P. 52, first line under Indiana, delete Clarke record. P. 73, fig. 36, delete southernmost circle in Illinois.

Julian P. Donahue and John H. Newman