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NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORIES OF *CHLOSYNE* (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) AND *AGRYPON* (HYMENOPTERA: ICHNEUMONIDAE)Andrew H. Williams¹

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) using keys in Scott (1986) and Mosher (1916), and by comparison with pupae of *Euphydryas phaeton* (Drury) and *C. nycteis*. Collection data are: "Barry Co., Mich., Yankee Springs, 15 June '69, Leg. 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 *C. nycteis* larvae feeding on the leaves of *A. trifida*. Reported larval food plants include other composites *Aster* spp., *A. puniceus*, *A. umbellatus*, *Helianthus* spp., *H. annuus*, *H. decapetalus*, *H. divaricatus*, *H. strumosus*, *H. tuberosus*, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *R. laciniata*, *Solidago* sp., and especially *Verbesina alternifolia*, *V. helianthoides* and *V. virginica* (Scudder 1889, Forbes 1960, Ebner 1970, Tietz 1972, Ferris & Brown 1981, Pyle 1981, Opler & Krizek 1984, Sedman & Hess 1985, Scott 1986, Heitzman & Heitzman 1987, Paulissen 1987, Iftner et al. 1992, Opler & Malikul 1992). Tietz (1972) lists *Conyza canadensis* and the possibility of *Plantago* sp., which more recent authors fail to mention.

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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