

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ADELPHA BREDOWII*
(NYMPHALIDÆ) IN OREGON

by RALPH W. MACY

The recent statement of ARTHUR H. MOECK (*Lepid. News* 11: 44, 1957) that he had found the California Sister, *Adelpha bredowii californica* in southern Oregon, prompts me to report on the distribution and habits of this butterfly in the state.

My first experience with these butterflies was in the summer of 1918, on the family farm in a valley in the foothills of the Coast Mountains, near McMinnville, and approximately fifty miles southwest of Portland. They began to appear in numbers following a large migratory flight of *Nymphalis californica*. By fall *A. bredowii* was very abundant so that as many as twenty or more were seen sitting around each of the larger springy places in fields, and they were intermingled with hordes of the California Tortoise Shells and some other fall butterflies. At first the California Sisters were fresh and therefore must have been produced locally. Along with other species, *A. bredowii* fed on decaying apples, pears, and plums covering the ground in old orchards. Unfortunately I caught only a few for my collection, not realizing the extent of the bonanza spread before me. In fact I had just started collecting that June, at the age of twelve, but the discovery of each species which inhabited my valley made a deep and lasting impression. Identification was made with the aid of HOLLAND'S *Butterfly Book* loaned by a kind neighbor recently arrived from Chicago.

Many *A. bredowii* were seen the following year and my old notes indicate that I caught several on August 17, 1920. Thereafter they seldom were seen in numbers, but a few were taken nearly every year for some period after that.

While on a class field trip to the ocean beach, near Depoe Bay, Lincoln County, about 100 miles southwest of Portland, on May 23, 1947, I caught a somewhat worn male *A. bredowii* which was flying only a few hundred feet from the heavy surf. During two previous years I had noticed many of these butterflies along U. S. Highway 101, beside the ocean, in the southern third of the state.

While visiting a farm five miles southwest of McMinnville, October 29, 1953, I collected four quite fresh males feeding on decaying Himalaya Blackberries. KENNETH FENDER also reported seeing specimens in the same vicinity that fall.

The species is found in a deciduous belt extending along the western Willamette Valley and covering parts of the adjacent foothills of the Coast Range. Common trees include Big-leaf Maple, *Acer macrophyllum*, and Garry Oak, *Quercus garryana*; the latter is a probable food plant of this butterfly. Although this area is considered a part of the Transition Life Zone, elements of the Upper Sonoran Zone also are present. Another southern

butterfly, the Purple Hairstreak, *Atlides halesus*, is sometimes found here, even in northern Oregon, and was first reported for the state by the writer (*Can Ent.* 64: 144; 1932).

The specimen of *A. bredowii* caught in Lincoln County was in the Canadian Life Zone a narrow strip of which extends along the ocean often reaching inland no more than several hundred yards, but it probably was a migrant. The southern Oregon coast locality is mountainous with forest of Douglas Fir, other conifers, and some deciduous trees.

Although this butterfly has not been reported in the most recent check lists for Washington and British Columbia (Leighton, *Butt. Wash.*, Seattle, 1946; Jones, *Annot. Checklist Macrolepid. B. C.*, Ent. Soc. B. C., 1951), it is clear that it occurs regularly in Oregon, even in the northern portion. Although it probably breeds in the state, it is possible that the population is reinforced by migrants.

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FINDING *MEGALURA PETREUS* IN COLORADO

I had never seen a live "Dagger-wing" before and had certainly not expected to see one of these tropical butterflies in Colorado, but it happened that way. I am teaching Biology and English at the Olney Springs High School here, and one afternoon two of my Biology students and myself went hunting for general insect specimens for class study. We walked into a blooming alfalfa field just north of the Methodist Church when one of my students evinced awe at the sight of an orange-colored butterfly visiting the alfalfa blossoms. It looked, at first glance, much like a male *Dryas julia nudeola* which I had caught in abundance on Key Largo, Florida, just two weeks previously. The student missed the butterfly twice and then I stalked it and netted it easily on one of the alfalfa blossoms. It turned out to be a very worn *Megalura petreus* Cramer, which had been flying in a due north-northeast direction. I had been in Colorado exactly a week when I found this butterfly, and not a single specimen did I find in southern Florida where they are supposed to occur! The butterfly was caught on August 31, 1958, just north of Olney Springs, Crowley County, Colorado.

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