

THE STATUS OF *MYELOIS NEOPHANES* (PHYCITINAE)
IN ENGLAND

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This species was described by DURRANT (1915) from the county of Dorset, England. The distribution in England is restricted to the counties of Surrey, Hampshire, Dorset, Devon and the Isle of Wight. It is usually found on heaths, sea-cliffs and pasture-land, but has been found in other situations (Beirne 1952: 107). The larva feeds on the cosmopolitan globular black fungus, *Daldinia concentrica*, which grows on birch, gorse and other plants.

While examining English specimens I noticed the similarity between the English *Myelois neophanes* and the American *Apomyelois bistriatella* (Hulst). Closer examination showed that the American species cannot be separated from the English one on external characters or on the female genitalia. Small differences were found in the male genitalia in the shape of the juxta and transtilla and in the shape of the sclerotized portion of the valve. Specimens which had been compared with the Durrant type in the British Museum (Natural History) were sent to Mr. H. W. CAPPS at the U. S. National Museum, who compared them with American specimens and confirmed my findings.

HEINRICH (1956: 42) gives the distribution of the American species as "probably throughout eastern and central United States, nowhere apparently a very abundant species".

The English species should be transferred to the genus *Apomyelois* and be placed as a subspecies of *A. bistriatella*:

Apomyelois bistriatella bistriatella (Hulst), in America

Apomyelois bistriatella neophanes (Durrant) *comb. n., stat. n.*, in England.

References

- Beirne, B. P., 1952. *British pyralid and plume moths*. 208 pp. Warne & Co., London.
Durrant, J. H., 1915. *Myelois neophanes* sp. n., an addition to the British list. *Ent mon. Mag.* 51: 302.
Heinrich, C., 1956. American moths of the subfamily Phycitinae. *U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 207: 1-581.

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