

specimens from such localities will become more valuable as time goes on, as they will indicate to later generations of lepidopterists where the species once occurred, and what the members of the population looked like. Those of us who are doing taxonomic studies now are thankful for the old collections that have been preserved, as these specimens are of great help to us—unfortunately, they are usually much fewer in number than we would like to have. To ensure that as many specimens as possible are preserved for posterity, it should be the aim of everyone who has a collection to make certain that it is deposited in a museum that has an active section devoted to the Lepidoptera. There are several modern, forward-looking institutions in this country that would be glad to receive such collections, whether the latter are small or large. Only in this way will our children and grandchildren be able to study what we, here today, are fortunate enough to preserve for them.

Because of the above reasons I would urge you most emphatically to collect extensively in all available natural habitats. Also, you should encourage and assist young people to collect so that they, too, will have the satisfaction of contributing knowledge and material in an area which may become lost.

FIRST CONNECTICUT RECORDS OF *THYMELICUS LINEOLA*, AN INTRODUCED HESPERIID

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Thymelicus lineola (Ochsenheimer), a Palearctic hesperiine skipper, made its Nearctic debut at London, Ontario, Canada, in 1910. So far as known, it now occupies much of southeastern Ontario, plus closely adjacent parts of the United States (i.e., the Detroit area, the Buffalo area), and, in the United States, occurs also at a few scattered points, most of which lie in the Piedmont of the Northeast. No New England localities have thus far been reported for this species.

We have found *T. lineola* in small numbers at two places in central Connecticut. The ten Connecticut specimens now at hand are superficially and genitally similar to specimens from other populations in eastern North America. We obtained our limited material as described below.

In a hayfield at the junction of Cox Road and Penfield Hill Road,

Portland, Middlesex County, Apter caught two examples of *T. lineola* in the course of general butterfly collecting on June 25, 1963. When subsequently spreading them, he damaged one so badly that he discarded it, not realizing what it was; but he successfully spread the other, a male, and correctly identified it. In early July, Apter contacted Burns regarding this specimen; and we made three fruitless attempts to secure additional material at Portland in 1963.

In 1964, we checked the Portland locality for *T. lineola* on June 11, 18, 23, 25, and 26, and July 7 and 16. On only three days did we find any individuals of this species: on June 23, each of us caught one male; on June 25, Apter collected one male and Burns, three; and on June 26, Apter got one male.

In roadside grass and weeds at precisely the junction of a single-track line of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad with State Route 159, on the east bank of the Coginchaug River, Rockfall, Middlesex County, Burns caught one male of *T. lineola* on June 20, 1964. He saw no others at that time; but on June 25 we visited this spot, and Burns got another male. He briefly checked the Rockfall locality for *T. lineola*, without success, on June 26 and 27, and July 11, 1964.

The other species of skippers with which we found *T. lineola* flying in 1964 were, at Portland, *Ancyloxypha numitor* (Fabricius), *Polites coras* (Cramer), *P. mystic* (Scudder), *P. origines* (Fabricius), *P. themistocles* (Latreille), *Pompeius verna* (Edwards), *Poanes hobomok* (Harris), *Euphyes bimacula* (Grote & Robinson), *Epargyreus clarus* (Cramer), *Achalarus lyciades* (Geyer), *Thorybes pylades* (Scudder), and *Pholisora catullus* (Fabricius); and, at Rockfall, *Nastra lherminier* (Latreille), *Ancyloxypha numitor*, *Hesperia sassacus* Harris, *Polites mystic*, *Wallengrenia egeremet* (Scudder), *Pompeius verna*, *Poanes hobomok*, *Thorybes pylades*, *T. bathyllus* (Smith), and *Pholisora catullus*.

The localities at which we discovered *T. lineola* are 7.6 miles (rectilinearly measured) apart, on opposite sides of the Connecticut River. In both localities, the skipper occurs in highly disturbed habitats—particularly “waste” areas flanking roadways and supporting, among other grasses, timothy (*Phleum pratense*). Since *T. lineola* is known from two distinct spots and is known to have been at one of them for two consecutive years, it is evidently established in Connecticut. However, the many man-hours spent specifically in seeking out this skipper in 1964 produced a total of but 9 specimens—all males. We think the present low population density is better ascribed to recency of invasion than to any possible marginal qualities of the lower Connecticut River valley for the continued survival of this species.