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AN "ALBINIC" *PIERIS SISYMBRII* (PIERIDAE) FROM THE CALIFORNIA SIERRAS

"Albinic" or "depigmentized" forms largely or wholly lacking melanin pigment from the wings are known in several pierid butterflies. Within the genus *Pieris* a weakly melanized form is known from *P. protodice* Bdv. & LeC. (Shapiro 1970, Wasmann J. Biol. 28: 245–256) and Gardiner (1962, Ent. Gaz. 13: 97–100; 1963, J. Res. Lep. 2: 127–136) has reported a form from *P. brassicae* L. in which the normally black scales lack pigment altogether, producing a translucent "shadow" pattern. In both of these cases the genetics is known. Crowe (1967, J. Lepid. Soc. 21: 121) reported a female *P. sisymbrii* Bdv. from Harney Co., Oregon which seems to resemble Gardiner's form of *P. brassicae* in totally lacking melanin on the wings. Although the accompanying photograph does not show a "shadow" pattern, it is mentioned in the text. On 23 May 1975 a very similar male with "shadow" pattern was taken flying among normal individuals on Washington Road, off state Highway 20 in Nevada Co., California. As in Crowe's specimen, the normally dark wing-veins contrast strongly with the ground color and the body, legs and antennae are normally pigmented. This male was kept alive for two days but no virgin females were available and I could not induce wild females to mate. The Washington Road population is unusual in that it is an isolated colony on the highest-elevation outcrop of serpentine soil (elev. 5000 ft) in the central west-slope Sierra. The vegetation on this atypical site is digger pine-manzanita-scrub oak, contrasting strongly with nearby stands of mixed montane coniferous forest on non-serpentine soils; the nearest known *sisymbrii* colony is seven miles away. This is the first aberrant individual I have seen among about 750 wild *P. sisymbrii* in about 20 California populations.

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