Robinson trap. Unfortunately the apical regions of both forewings are badly damaged, probably from flying inside the trap. This specimen is at the Peabody Museum, Yale University.

The 1972 specimen was confirmed by Dr. Franclemont along with the above *Givira*. Barnes and McDunnough (op. cit.) record it only from Florida and Kimball's records (op. cit.) cover much of that state. All of these specimens were collected within 20 m to the north of the Batsto Nature Center, situated on the top of the small hill near the east bank of the Batsto river, just above the dam. The surrounding vegetation includes a woodlot of various oaks and adventive species and extensive areas of essentially natural oak-pine and pine-oak forests extending more or less unbroken for hundreds of square kilometers, especially to the north. The pines are *Pinus echinata* Mill., and *P. rigida* Mill., with the former predominating at the immediate area of the captures.

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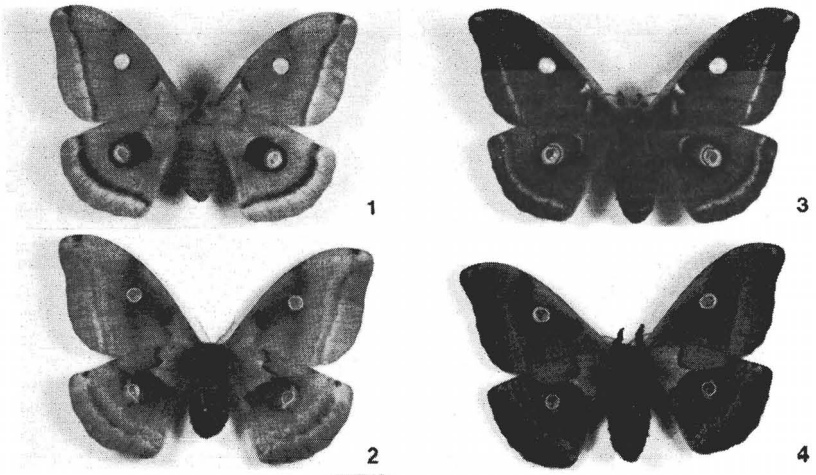
A MELANISTIC SPECIMEN OF *ANTHERAEA POLYPHEMUS POLYPHEMUS* (SATURNIIDAE)

On 2 June 1975, the senior author received a living specimen of *Antheraea polyphemus polyphemus* (Cramer) that was most unusual in coloration (Figs. 1–4). The moth, a female, had eclosed on 1 June from a cocoon found approximately two weeks previously on a fence in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The cocoon had been given



Figs. 1–4. *Antheraea polyphemus* (Cramer): 1. typical female from Winnipeg, dorsum; 2. typical female, venter; 3. melanistic female, dorsum; 4. melanistic female, venter. (Photos by W. B. Preston).

to a school student, Miss Darcy Berry, who, on realizing the unusual nature of the moth, donated it to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

The general coloration is dark brown, but with the recognizable markings of *A. p. polyphemus*. The ventral surface is of the same colour as the dorsum but is contrastingly marked as is typical of specimens from Manitoba (Figs. 2, 4). In wingspan the mounted specimen measures 114 mm and the greatest length of the right front wing is 61 mm.

There are some references to melanistic *A. polyphemus* in the literature. Holland (1903, The Moth Book. Doubleday, New York. 479 p.) mentioned ". . . one or two fine melanic specimens, in which the wings are almost wholly black on the upper side." Packard (1914, Mem. Natl. Acad. Sci. 12: 207) referred to Holland's specimens and (p. 205) mentioned three purplish coloured specimens reared from cocoons from Macon, Georgia. Ferguson (*in* Dominick, R. B. et al. 1972, The Moths of America North of Mexico, fasc. 20.2B Bombicoidea (in part)) considered melanistic specimens to be very rare. The authors of the present paper are unaware of any prior published illustration of a melanistic *A. polyphemus*.

We wish to thank Mr. Richard Westwood, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and Mr. C. S. Quelch, Winnipeg, for examining their collections for melanistic specimens.

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BISTON COGNATARIA (GEOMETRIDAE): FREQUENCY OF MELANIC MALES IN TYRINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 1958–1977

Sargent (1974, J. Lepid. Soc. 28: 145–152) reported the frequency of the melanic *versus* the typical form of the Salt and Pepper Geometer, *Biston cognataria* (Guenée), in collections totalling 129 specimens (presumably all male) from central Massachusetts for the years 1971–1973. The percent of melanics ranged from zero in 1971 to 5.6 in 1973. The overall incidence for the three years was $6/129 = 4.4$ percent. Sargent discussed the question of industrial melanism and urged the continued reporting of data bearing on this problem.

During 18 years of the period from 1958 through 1977 (omitting 1961 and 1962) I examined a total of 833 males of this species taken at light in Tyringham, a rural area in southern Berkshire County of western Massachusetts, elevation 313 meters. Atmospheric pollution in the area was minimal as evidenced by the common presence of lichens on tree trunks. Collections in each year covered a period from late May to mid September or later. The overall incidence of melanism was $83/833 = 9.96$ percent. The yearly incidence ranged from zero in six of the 18 years, to a high of 33.3 percent (2/6) in 1971 (Table 1). The average of yearly incidences was 7.31 percent. Abundance of moths available for examination ranged from zero in 1970 to 253 in 1966, in which year the incidence of melanics was 11.1 percent. If any general trend is evident, it is toward a recent diminution in the number of melanics.