

TABLE 1. Incidence of melanism in males of *Biston cognataria* in Tyringham, Massachusetts, 1958-1977.

Year	Melanic Form	Typical Form	Total Examined	Percent Melanic
1958	1	28	29	3.5
1959	12	93	105	11.4
1960	6	37	43	14.0
1961				(no records)
1962				(no records)
1963	1	8	9	11.1
1964	2	23	25	8.0
1965	7	69	76	9.2
1966	28	225	253	11.1
1967	17	171	188	9.4
1968	5	31	36	13.9
1969	0	3	3	0.0
1970	0	0	0	—
1971	2	4	6	33.3
1972	0	4	4	0.0
1973	0	7	7	0.0
1974	0	10	10	0.0
1975	0	10	10	0.0
1976	2	10	12	16.7
1977	0	17	17	0.0
Total	83	750	833	7.31

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NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ERORA LAETA* (LYCAENIDAE) IN MICHIGAN'S WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Erora laeta (Edwards) has been known from only one location in the upper Great Lakes region. On 14 May 1955, Edward G. Voss and Warren H. Wagner, Jr. had the good fortune of encountering four individuals of this elusive butterfly, two males and one female of which were captured. These records from Bliss Township, Emmet Co., Michigan represented a first for the state and substantially extended the known range of this exceedingly rare species. In a paper recounting these captures (Voss & Wagner 1956, *Lepid. News* 10: 18-24), the authors gave considerable attention to the environmental characteristics of the collecting site. In brief, all of the specimens were captured at or near a moist spot, which was fed by a small ground spring situated on the south side of an east-west dirt section road. Botanically, the surrounding area was described as a very young deciduous woods, with American beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.), basswood (*Tilia americana* L.), American elm (*Ulmus americana* L.), white ash (*Fraxinus americana* L.), and pin cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica* L.) dominating.

Beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* Marsh.) was not noted anywhere near and conifers were conspicuously absent. Subsequent collecting at this site by Voss and Wagner, along with numerous others, has failed to turn up additional specimens.

On 27 May 1975, I was collecting in an area SE of Porcupine Mountains State Park, in Ontonagon Co., principally in search of colonies of *Pieris virginiensis*. Rich northern hardwood forests along a spur service road to the Bergland Lookout Tower provided excellent collecting for several spring desirables. At approximately 1730 (CDT), a small lycaenid was noted at a mudpuddle margin along this service road, ca. 0.8 km ENE of and some 84 m below Bergland Tower (elevation 541 m). Being immediately recognized as *E. laeta*, I wasted no time in netting it. The captured specimen was an immaculate female. After a brief period of disbelief and celebration, other wet spots along the entire length of the service road were carefully checked five or six times, but no additional specimens were encountered. The entire area was again scoured on the following day, but overcast weather conditions greatly inhibited butterfly activity. Having been advised that weather conditions were not expected to change for the better, I left the area, having lost hope of finding additional individuals.

This site is approximately 400 km WNW of the Emmet Co. location where it was found in 1955, thus representing the most northwestern station for *E. laeta* known. Botanically the Ontonagon Co. site is quite dissimilar from that in Emmet Co. It can be typified as a well drained, secondary northern hardwood forest, dominated by basswood (*Tilia americana* L.), sugar and mountain maples (*A. saccharum* and *spicatum* Lam., respectively), red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.), and American elm, with occasional balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* L.), intermixed with wetter areas containing black ash (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.), and with trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.) colonies throughout. Understory shrubs include beaked hazelnut and thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus* Nutt.). The most conspicuous herbs during late May were the large-leaved aster (*Aster macrophyllus* L.), winter cress (*Barbarea vulgaris* R. Br.), nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum* L.), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis* L.), and several species of violets. Many additional weedy plants occur along the disturbed roadside.

Other butterflies found associated with *E. laeta* at the Ontonagon Co. station included *Erynnis icelus* (scarce; fresh), *Amblyscirtes samoset* (common; freshly emerging), *Carterocephalus palaemon* (scarce; emerging), *Papilio glaucus canadensis* (common; fresh), *Pieris virginiensis* (common; mostly worn), *Celastrina argiolus pseudargiolus* (abundant; worn), *Nymphalis vau-album* (scarce; fresh), *Polygonia comma* (common; fresh), and *P. faunus* (common; fresh). Judging from this isolated capture, the peak flight period of *laeta* in the area appears to be fixed between the full flights of the principally early spring species (*P. virginiensis* and *C. argiolus pseudargiolus*) and those of late spring (*A. samoset* and *C. palaemon*).

Both American beech and beaked hazelnut are suspected larval hostplants of *E. laeta*. American beech is abundant at the Emmet Co. collecting site, while beaked hazelnut is very rare or altogether absent. At the Ontonagon Co. site, the opposite is true: beaked hazelnut constitutes a dominating element, while American beech was not noted at all. Warren H. Wagner, Jr., informs me (in litt.) that the westernmost extent of American beech in North America is in the north in eastern Marquette Co., eastern Iron Co., and then extending down the eastern one-fifth of Wisconsin. The nearest localities for beech are thus roughly 160 km east of the Ontonagon *E. laeta* site. Most Midwest collectors have in the past associated *E. laeta* with northern hardwood forests dominated by American beech but, in view of the present capture, it would be advisable to also concentrate collecting efforts in northern hardwood situations as characterized above.

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