

THE OCCURRENCE OF *NOCTUA PRONUBA* (L.) (NOCTUIDAE)
IN NOVA SCOTIA: A NEW NORTH AMERICAN RECORD

A male *Noctua pronuba* (L.) was captured on 8 August 1979 under a house porch light in west end Halifax, Nova Scotia. The specimen was in somewhat worn condition. Whether its occurrence was the result of an individual introduction or indicative of an established breeding population cannot be determined at this time.

Noctua pronuba is a widespread Palearctic species. The larva has been recorded as feeding on a wide variety of plants, including *Poa annua* L., *Rumex*, *Polygonum*, *Atriplex*, *Myosotis* and *Taraxacum* species, and various Cruciferae (Beck 1960, Die Larvalsystematik Der Fulen, Akademik-Verlag, Berlin, p. 148). In Britain the larva is sometimes a pest in flower and vegetable gardens (South, 1972, The Moths of the British Isles, Warne, London, p. 163).

This specimen, which is in my collection at Dalhousie University, Halifax, represents the first known record of *Noctua pronuba* for North America. A photograph of the specimen (Fig. 1) is given.

KENNETH NEIL, *Dept. of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4J1.*



FIG. 1. *Noctua pronuba* L. Male from Armdale, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 8 August 1979, K. Niel (3.5×).