

THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *CATOCALA WHITNEYI* AND  
REPORTS OF THIS SPECIES IN OHIO

**Additional key words:** Noctuidae, Catocalinae, distribution.

*Catocala whitneyi* Dodge has been reported from Ohio several times (Dyar, H. G., C. H. Fernald, G. D. Hulst & A. Busck 1902 [1903], Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus. 52, 723 pp.; Hampson, G. F. 1913, Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenae in the British Museum, Vol. 12, London, 626 pp.; Forbes, W. T. M. 1954, Lepidoptera of New York and neighboring states, Part III, Noctuidae, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Mem. 329, Ithaca, New York, 433 pp.; Sargent, T. D. 1976, Legion of night: The underwing moths, Univ. of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, 222 pp.), but my efforts to locate valid Ohio specimens have been fruitless. After exhaustive investigation, I conclude that all previous references to the species occurring in Ohio are erroneous and explainable as misreading the type locality.

G. M. Dodge (1874, Can. Entomol. 6:125-126) described *C. whitneyi*, giving the type locality as "Ohio, Ill." This might be seen as a reference to the states of Ohio and Illinois, but in reality, Ohio is the name of a town in Bureau Co., Illinois. Dodge earlier (1874, Can. Entomol. 6:114-115) referred to Ohio, Illinois, as a single location. That Dodge was referring to this town is confirmed in a letter he wrote to James Angus: "In Bureau County, Ill., I found only *Whitneyi*" (Angus, J. 1884, Papilio 4:35-37).

A credible source for the reports of *C. whitneyi* from Ohio is found in Hampson (above). Hampson lists five specimens and indicates that at least one type specimen is from Ohio: "Hab. U.S.A., Ohio, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ type, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas (Snow), 1 ♂, 1 ♀." This information contradicts W. Beutenmüller (1907, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 23:145-151) who wrote, "The types of *whitneyi* were unfortunately destroyed by fire, as I am informed by Mr. Dodge, and the specimen in the Grote Collection in the British Museum, supposed to be the type is not one of the specimens from which the description was made." Based on British Museum photographs of the five specimens listed by Hampson, including full label data, none of the specimens is from Ohio. The one specimen bearing a label with the word "Type" simply has the locality as "U.S. America, Grote Coll., 81-116." Two of the other specimens bear labels with data identical to that just cited and two specimens are labeled "Kansas, Snow, Grote Coll., 81-116."

Conceivably, *C. whitneyi* was collected by early Ohio lepidopterists. Charles Dury of Cincinnati and George Pilate of Dayton were accomplished lepidopterists and contemporaries of Dodge. Grote identified many specimens for Dury, and Pilate provided the specimens for Grote's description of *C. dulciola* (Grote, A. R. 1881, Papilio 1:5-6). The connection to Grote is important because one of the Grote specimens of *C. whitneyi* in the British Museum is allegedly a type. Either Dury or Pilate could have provided Grote with *C. whitneyi*, which would account for the Ohio record. This seems unlikely, however, since neither mentioned this species or the similar *C. abbreviatella* and *C. nuptialis* in their papers on Ohio Lepidoptera (Dury, C. 1876, Can. Entomol. 8:187-188; 1878, J. Cincinnati Soc. Nat. Hist. 1:12-23; Pilate, G. R. 1882, Papilio 2:65-71).

Ironically, W. Barnes and J. H. McDunnough (1918, Illustrations of the North American species of the genus *Catocala*, Mem. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 3(1), 47 pp.) must have known that *C. whitneyi* had not been recorded in Ohio when they described the distribution this way: "It has only been reported from a few of the Plains States from Nebraska and Kansas northward to southern Manitoba but appears to be fairly plentiful locally." Had they explained the distribution in relation to the type locality, the enigma might have been resolved in 1918.

The recorded foodplant of *C. whitneyi*, *Amorpha fruticosa* L. (Leguminosae), (Dodge, E. A. 1925, Entomol. News 36:267-268) occurs only infrequently along the Ohio River in western Ohio, but *A. fruticosa* is doubtfully native in Ohio (Braun, E. L. 1961, The

woody plants of Ohio, Hafner, New York, 362 pp.). Another probable foodplant, *A. canescens* Pursh, does not occur in Ohio. However, other species of Leguminosae are found in Ohio along with species of *Catocala* (*minuta* and *illecta*) that use them as hosts. *Catocala whitneyi* has been collected in Kentucky W of Louisville, where *A. fruticosa* is known to occur, but the moth has not been recorded from Indiana.

No Ohio specimens have been located in Ohio collections, nor in major collections including the U.S. National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. The Museum of Comparative Zoology, where remnants of the Pilate collection are housed, likewise has no Ohio specimens of *C. whitneyi*.

The range of *C. whitneyi* reported by Barnes and McDunnough (above) is essentially correct. A specimen from Tennessee is in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The range extends N and W through the Plains States including W Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin to Manitoba, and W through Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and N through the Dakotas. The recorded host, *A. fruticosa*, favors river and stream banks, whereas *A. canescens* is found on sandy soils and prairies. In Wisconsin (L. Ferge pers. comm.), *C. whitneyi* has a decided preference for prairie conditions, suggesting a relation with *A. canescens*; adults rest on the ground during the day.

I thank R. W. Rings and T. D. Sargent for critically reviewing the manuscript, and C. W. Albrecht for encouragement. Many collectors and curators allowed access to collections under their care, and others, including C. V. Covell in Kentucky and E. M. Shull in Indiana, quickly responded to requests for data. I also thank F. H. Rindge and Mary Genett, American Museum of Natural History, for searching Beutenmüller's files, and the late Alan Hayes for specimen photographs and label data in the British Museum (Natural History).

ERIC H. METZLER, *Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Fountain Square C-2, Columbus, Ohio 43224.*

*Received for publication 9 March 1987; accepted 13 August 1987.*

*Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society*  
41(4), 1987, 213

CORRECTION OF A NAME IN THE *EPINOTIA VERTUMNANA*  
(ZELLER) SPECIES-GROUP (TORTRICIDAE)

**Additional key words:** taxonomy, *Epinotia celtisana*, Olethreutinae.

In a revision of the *Epinotia vertumnana* (Zeller) species-group (Brown, R. L. 1986, J. Lepid. Soc. 40:327-346), *Paedisca celtisana* Riley (1881 [1882]) was transferred from synonymy with *Paedisca vertumnana* Zeller (1875) to synonymy with *Proteopteryx laracana* Kearfott (1907), with the latter name listed as the senior synonym. However, *Epinotia celtisana* (Riley) is the valid name by priority, and *Epinotia laracana* (Kearfott) becomes a junior synonym.

RICHARD L. BROWN, *Mississippi Entomological Museum, Drawer EM, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.*

*Received for publication and accepted 11 August 1987.*