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EURISTRYMON ONTARIO (LYCAENIDAE): FIRST REPORT IN MICHIGAN

On 28 June 1975, Harvey and Oosting were collecting in an area NNW of Morenci, Lenawee Co., Michigan, principally in search of *Satyrrium caryaevorus*. A late afternoon stop was made at a likely-looking hairstreak location just south of Lime Creek along Munson Highway, a secondary road running north-south along the section line. An overcast sky had all but put an end to the day's field work, but a quick check was made of a roadside patch of mixed white and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus alba* Desr. and *M. officinalis* (L.) Lam., respectively).

What appeared to be another *Satyrrium* was noticed by both Harvey and Oosting taking nectar from white sweet clover. It seemed to be somewhat different from other hairstreaks taken during the day, and it was routinely swept up in Oosting's net for examination. Imagine our surprise to discover that it was a slightly worn male *ontario*, the first collection for the state of Michigan. An immediate vigorous search of the area yielded no additional specimens. The following day, accompanied by Wagner, the collectors again investigated the entire area. Sunny skies provided excellent *Satyrrium* collecting, but additional specimens of *E. ontario* were not seen. Nevertheless we made a careful survey of the habitat in terms of plant species, in the hope that it might contribute something to our understanding of this elusive butterfly and its occurrence in north-central and northeastern North America.

The roadbank patch of white and yellow sweet clover, where *ontario* was captured, is bordered on the south by a large weedlot, including mainly Eurasian plants which, like the sweet clovers, have become naturalized to a greater or lesser extent as weeds. Southeast of the spot where *ontario* was collected is an extensive cornfield, like many others in an area which is made up of farms interspersed with mainly small wooded areas, these located primarily along stream valleys. Just to the south of the locality is Lime Creek, running east-west. The stream valley is rather heavily wooded, especially to the west of the locality (across the road), where there is an old pasture woods with an extensive development of hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.) on the edges and in openings. The pastured forest (now including only a couple of cattle, but formerly more) has a tall, heavy canopy made of very common plants of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.), black maple (*A. nigrum* Michx.), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata* (Mill.) K. Koch), white ash (*Fraxinus americana* L.) and basswood (*Tilia americana* L.). Less common species include red maple (*A. rubrum* L.), false shagbark (*C. ovalis* Wang.), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana* Mill.) and red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.). In the understory, the clonal shrub, prickly ash (*Xanthoxylum americanum* Mill.), is common and in the low herbaceous growth are recognized such rich forest species as Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria* L.), may apple (*Podophyllum peltatum* L.) and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis* L.). Lopseed (*Phryma leptostachya* L.) is especially common as an herbaceous forest-floor plant.

There is a step, darkly shaded slope on the north, running down to the stream bed and an alluvial forest, where such woody species as pawpaw (*Asimina triloba* (L.) Dunal), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin* L.), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis* L.), and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* Marsh.) are frequent to common. On the flood-plain forest floor are found such rich-soil plants as creeping fragile fern (*Cystopteris protensa* (Weath.) Blasdell), blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides* L.), liverleaf (*Hepatica acutiloba* DC) and wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis* L.). Persons familiar with southern Michigan vegetation will recognize here a plant association of luxuriant, rich woods—hardly comparable to a "shale barrens" like that described by Clench (1971, *J. Lepid. Soc.* 25: 80-82).

It is possible that the specimen of *ontario* was blown in or flew in from some distance away. Judging from its condition, however, the specimen might have originated near by. Indeed the presence of the suggested larval foodplant genus, *Quercus*, makes this not unlikely. Other species of hairstreaks, particularly *S. calanus falacer*, were common in light gaps in the woods, where they perched on shrubs and small trees. Presumably the *falacer* are attracted into open, weedy areas by the flowers present there, and they return to their natural woodland and woods-edge habitats when they are not feeding. In addition to *S. c. falacer*, the following species of butterflies were found in the general area: *Wallengrenia otho egeremet* (common), *Polites coras* (scarce), *Papilio glaucus* (common), *P. troilus* (scarce), *Satyrrium caryaevorus* (common), *S. acadica* (scarce), *Chlosyne nycteis* (scarce) and *Speyeria cybele* (common).

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