

**NEW PEORIA RECORDS FOR
AGRAULIS VANILLAE NIGRIOR
MICHENER (LEPIDOPTERA:
NYMPHALIDAE) AND
ERINNYIS OBSCURA
F. (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE).**

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ABSTRACT

Peoria County occurrence of two Lepidoptera species with Southern affinities is reported for the first time. *Erinnyis obscura* was collected for Dunlap, on the date 8 October 1986. *Agraulis vanillae* was collected approximately 6 kilometers from Peoria on the date 7 August 1987.

INTRODUCTION

Both the Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae nigrior* and the Obscure Sphinx, *Erinnyis obscura* are Lepidoptera with subtropical affinities, which normally occur in the southern United States from Florida to Texas. Both species have been reported from northern states on rare occasions. Irwin and Downey (1973) reported 6 records for *A. vanillae* in the state of Illinois, including a report of larvae from Madison County. The northern-most records from Kane, Cass, and Champaign Counties are thought to be strays (Irwin and Downey, 1973). Sedman and Hess (1985) reported no new findings during the years 1976 and 1983. The Obscure Sphinx, (*E. obscura*) has been reported to stray as far north as Kansas and New Jersey between the months of September and October (Covel, 1984). I can find no substantiated records of its occurrence in Illinois after checking collections at the

Illinois Natural History Survey in Urbana, Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences in Peoria, Illinois, as well as the private collections of Dr. H. Princen, Mr. Gordon Adams, Kevin Russell and Dr. Michael Toliver of Eureka. However, I sighted but did not capture a specimen in September, 1980 in Carbondale, Jackson County. No literary references have been found that reported occurrences in Peoria Co., Illinois.

SPECIMEN ACCOUNTS

On 8 October 1986, while collecting at Dunlap High School in Dunlap, Illinois, I collected a single male of *Erinnyis obscura* on the west wall of the school gym, beneath a Mercury vapor light. The recorded time was at 24:00 hrs. and the temperature was about 13°C. (Figure 1.)

On 7 August 1987, I sighted a male of *Agraulis vanillae* sampling the composites in our flower garden at 1703 S. Cameron Lane. Time of sighting was at 17:15 and the temperature was about 26°C. I initially missed capturing the butterfly. It returned approximately five minutes later and fed at some Dahlia's before I captured it. (Figure 2.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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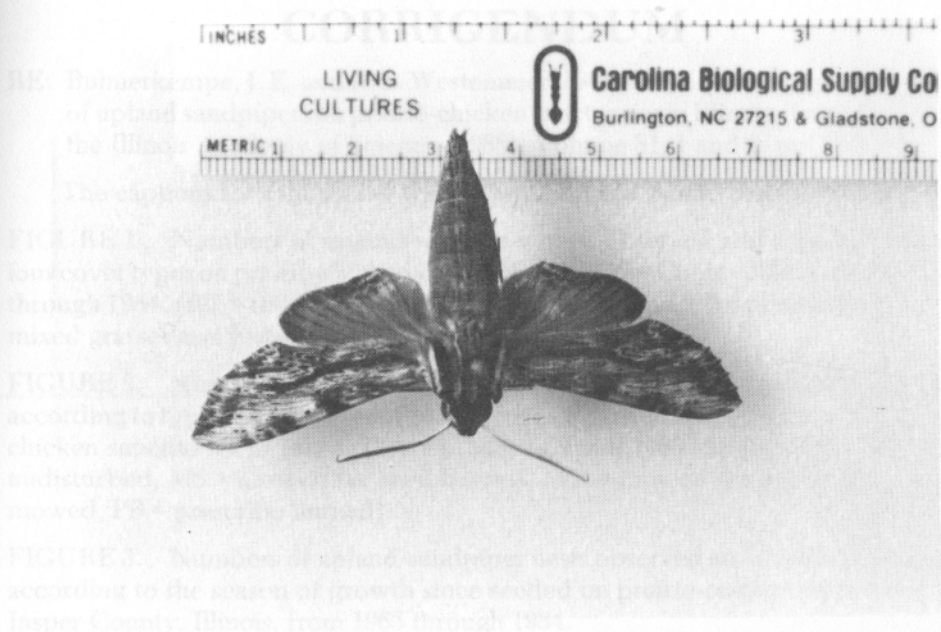


Figure 1. Male specimen of *Errinmyis obscura* F. collected at Dunlap, Peoria Co., IL on 8 October 1986.

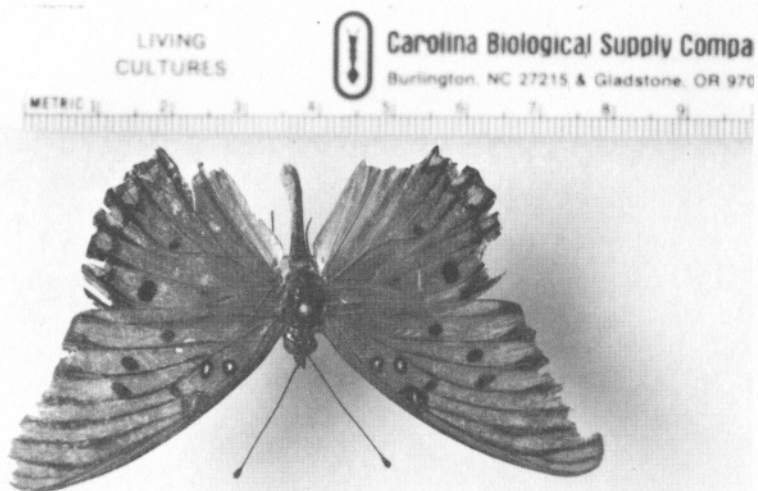


Figure 2. Male specimen of *Agraulis vanillae* Michener, collected at 1703 S. Cameron Lane, Peoria Co., IL, on 7 August 1987.