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THE IRISH FORM OF *LEPTIDEA SINAPIS* L.

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THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Dudley W. Westropp, of Dublin, I have for some years possessed a series of this species from localities in Co. Kildare and Co. Dublin, and I have been able to examine specimens from other parts of Ireland.

Leptidea sinapis appears to be single-brooded in Ireland, the examples in my collection having been taken on various dates between May 21 (1936) and June 18 (1932). I have no second brood examples, and have not heard of the occurrence of such a brood. One 1935 example was taken as early as May 4.

Irish *Leptidea sinapis* differ considerably from English examples, being very much more strongly marked on both surfaces in both sexes, so that they have some resemblance to *L. duponcheli* Staud. This intensity of colouring is not unusual in Irish Lepidoptera, and is well known, for example, in *Maniola jurtina* (ssp. *iernes* Graves), *Polyommatus icarus* (this appears to be ssp. *clara* Tutt, though the description, inappropriately, lacks clarity), and *Bryophila muralis* Forst. The characteristic is, however, by no means universal, such species as *Maniola tithonus* and *Aphantopus hyperantus* occurring in forms not differing appreciably from those taken in England.

The distinction between Irish *L. sinapis* and forms occurring elsewhere is so marked and so constant that the Irish form seems to merit differentiation. I therefore describe it as—

Leptidea sinapis L., subsp. *juvernica*, subsp. nov.

Male.—*Upperside*: The black apical tip of the fore wing more extensive than in English examples, extending to vein 5 and tending to spread into the interspace between veins 4 and 5, in some examples also extending towards the base by a suffusion along the costa. On veins 2, 3 and 4 there is a strong suffusion of black scales from the outer margin, producing blackish streaks up to 3 mm. in length on vein 4 and slightly less on the other veins. A similar suffusion, much less marked, occurs on veins 3 and 4 in some English specimens. Some Irish examples lack the suffusion on vein 2.

Female.—*Upperside*: Much more strongly marked than English examples, some specimens being as intensely coloured as the more lightly marked English males. The suffusion of dark scales at the apex of fore wings extends inwardly more, by as much as one-third, than in English examples, and has the appearance of a deep grey tip, rather than, as in English examples, of a series of grey markings

on the veins. This dark tip extends to vein 5, in some examples to vein 4, and while it is more suffused than in English examples, it is clearly formed of a series of dark markings on the veins, so suffused as to become confluent for part of their length. On veins 3 and 4 are long marginal streaks as in the male, and in some examples there is a slight marginal suffusion or spot at the termination of vein 2.

Male.—Underside: Far more intensely coloured than in English examples. The underside markings are variable in both forms. The darker English males have a deep greenish-grey stripe extending from base almost to outer margin, lying between veins 3 and 4, and extending in places between veins 2 and 3, with a darkening of veins 1 and 2 and an irregular transverse stripe at about two-thirds of the distance from base to outer margin. In subsp. *juvernica* the whole wing from vein 4 to the inner margin is deep greenish-grey, lighter towards the outer margin, sometimes to about a quarter of the whole width of the wing, and slightly lighter between the veins. There is also a conspicuous suffusion of the same colour between vein 5 and the costa, more particularly in the basal two-thirds; beyond the transverse stripe the veins alone are darkened. This costal suffusion is only slightly suggested in English examples. Extreme examples of subsp. *juvernica* give the impression of an insect with a greenish-grey hind wing, having a pale stripe from base to outer margin, crossed by the normal transverse stripe. The fore wing has a deep greenish-grey costal suffusion extending to the end of the cell, more intensely coloured than in English examples, and well-marked long streaks on the veins at the outer margin.

Female.—Underside: Similar to the male, but the markings are slightly less extensive on both fore and hind wings.

♂ holotype: Kildare, June 10, 1934, D. W. Westropp. Figured by E. B. Ford, *Butterflies*, 1945, Pl. 46, fig. 9. H. B. Williams coll.

♀ allotype: Kildare, June 10, 1934, D. W. Westropp. Figured by E. B. Ford, *Butterflies*, 1945, Pl. 46, fig. 10. H. B. Williams coll.

♂ paratypes:

No. 1. Prosperous, Co. Kildare, May 4, 1935, D. W. Westropp. Underside figured by E. B. Ford, *Butterflies*, 1945, Pl. 46, fig. 11. H. B. Williams coll.

Nos. 2–4. Kildare, May 31, 1934, D. W. Westropp.

No. 5. Co. Clare, June, 1913, L. W. Newman.

Nos. 6–9. Galway, May, 1901, V. P. Kitchen.

(Nos. 2–9 in National Collection, British Museum.)

No. 10. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 18, 1932.

Nos. 11–13. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 4, 1931.

Nos. 14–22. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 21, 1936.

No. 23. Kildare, June 17, 1936.

No. 24. Kildare, June 10, 1937.

Nos. 25, 26. Prosperous, Co. Kildare, May 28, 1935.

No. 27. Kildare, June 10, 1934.

No. 28. Kildare, May 26, 1936.

No. 29. Kildare, May 23, 1934.

(Nos. 10–29 taken by D. W. Westropp.)

No. 30. Near Kildare, May 23, 1901, *ex coll.* P. M. Bright.
(Nos. 10-30 in H. B. Williams coll.)

No. 31. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 6, 1922.

Nos. 32, 33. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 4, 1931.

Nos. 34, 35. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 21, 1936.

No. 36. Kildare, May 31, 1934.

(Nos. 31-36, all taken by D. W. Westropp, in E. B. Ford coll.)

Nos. 37-40. Kildare, June 10, 1937, D. W. Westropp.

No. 41. Kildare, May 30, 1937, D. W. Westropp.

(Nos. 37-41 in University Museum, Oxford.)

♀ paratypes :

No. 42. Kildare, May 31, 1934, D. W. Westropp. Under-
side figured by E. B. Ford, *Butterflies*, 1945, Pl. 46, fig. 12.
H. B. Williams coll.

Nos. 43-45. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 4, 1931.

No. 46. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 13, 1931.

No. 47. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, June 4, 1932.

Nos. 48, 49. Kildare, May 31, 1934.

Nos. 50-53. Kildare, June 10, 1934.

(Nos. 43-53, all taken by D. W. Westropp, in H. B. Williams coll.)

No. 54. Glenasmole, Co. Dublin, May 26, 1936.

No. 55. Kildare, June 17, 1936.

No. 56. Kildare, June 10, 1937.

(Nos. 54-56 taken by D. W. Westropp.)

No. 57. Galway, May, 1901, V. P. Kitchen.

(Nos. 54-57 in National Collection, British Museum.)

In many Irish examples the ground colour of the underside is of a pronounced yellowish colour. This is not universal, and I do not regard it as a subspecific character.

Croft Point,
Bramley, Surrey.

PONTIA DAPLIDICE IN KERRY.—Four specimens of *P. daplidice* were seen and two captured at Waterville, Co. Kerry, Southern Ireland, on October 18, by Col. R. Meinertzhagen. There were "swarms" of Red Admirals and Painted Ladies about at the time.—C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED, F.R.E.S.; Castletop, Burley, Hants, Nov. 7, 1945.

NYMPHALIS ANTIOPA IN WILTSHIRE.—A Camberwell Beauty was watched for a considerable time near Marlborough on October 5 last by A. E. J. Mitton, of the College.—GUY PEIRSON; The College, Marlborough, Wilts.

NYMPHALIS ANTIOPA IN OXFORDSHIRE.—A specimen of *N. antiopa* was caught at Coombe, Oxon, on Sept. 10, by Miss Jenner Parson. It was feeding on rotten pears and was caught by placing a sieve over it!—C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED; Castletop, Burley, Hants.