

CANADA'S FIRST METALMARK BUTTERFLY RECORD

by RONALD R. HOOPER*

The Metalmark family (*Riodinidae*) is mostly a tropical family of butterflies, with many species found in Central and South America and a few in Africa and India. Only one species is found in Europe. Twenty species are recorded for the United States, but only three of these occur in the northern states. Two, the Northern Metalmark (*Lephelisca borealis* — Grote and Robinson) and the Swamp Metalmark (*Lephelisca muticum* — McAlpine), should be watched for in Southern Ontario. We have been watching for the third species, the Mormon Metalmark (*Apodemia mormo* — Felder and Felder), in Saskat-

chewan since it was collected in the North Dakota badlands. The capture of a fresh specimen of Mormon Metalmark in Saskatchewan's Killdeer Badlands (west of Killdeer) on August 8, 1974, was the first record of this family for Canada.

When I took the specimen I was on an insect collecting field trip for the Saskatchewan Provincial Museum. Under a thin layer of cloud not many butterflies were active, but I was collecting a few specimens of Acmon Blue (*Plebejus acmon* — Westwood and Hewitson) in the end of a canyon among branched eriogonum (*Eriogonum multiceps* — Nees). The occurrence of the Mormon Metalmark in this habitat, and its fresh appearance indicate that it was probably raised there because Eriogonum is the food plant in other areas.

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Mormon Metalmark - upper side.



Lower side.

Ronald Hooper

The specimen is a male. It has a wingspread just over 1 inch. On the upperside it is orange on the forewings and dark grey on the hindwings. Both fore- and hind-wings are crossed by a series of white spots. Our specimen is darker on the hindwings than those from much farther south, but it resembles specimens from North and South Dakota.

The Metalmarks resemble the gossamer-winged butterflies (*Lycaenidae*) but the males have forelegs that are not suited for walking and the part of these legs known as the

coxae are elongated into spurs. They also have a humeral vein in the hindwing, which is lacking in the lycaenids. Many species have metallic marks in the wings that give them their common name.

Even where metalmarks occur, they are often difficult to find. This may be partly due to the fact that they will sometimes land in the shade on the underside of leaves. Perhaps this is why our specimen was active on a hazy day.



FIELD GUIDE TO AQUATIC INSECT FAMILIES*

by D. M. LEHMKUHL**

Among insects, something like 100 families of a dozen orders which include thousands of species can be found in the streams, rivers, lakes, bogs and springs of North America.

Investigations of freshwater habitats by naturalists and students as well as by professional biologists have been hampered by this variety. Keys and guidebooks are too often non-existent, incomprehensible by the non-specialist, very expensive or out-of-print. The objective of this pictorial key and field guide is to provide a readily accessible and non-technical introduction to identification of most of the North American families of aquatic insects.

*Reprints are available from the author.

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