

MACOUN'S ARCTIC

In Central Manitoba

by WALTER V. KRIVDA*

Recently in sorting and arranging the Satyrid butterflies in my collection a considerable range extension northward in Manitoba for Macoun's Arctic (*Oeneis macouni* Edwards) was located.

This is based on two specimens. The first was taken in The Pas on June 19, 1947. This was collected by Edward Melnyk 1/2 mile west of the Roman Catholic Cemetery along the Saskatchewan River. Today, this is approximately the site of the Lutheran Church. The specimen is somewhat torn and lacks the abdomen. It was identified by J. B. Wallis in 1948 and is a female. The area is low and is about a mile from any jack pine. The Red-disked Alpine (*Erebia discoidalis*) and the Ringlet (*Coenonympha inornata*) fly in this same area.



Macoun's Arctic**

Another specimen from The Pas is also on hand. It was netted on June 13, 1953, near Grace Lake in a stand of jack pine bordering sphagnum bogs. No other specimens have been seen in this area in over 20 years of collecting.

The following additional Manitoba specimens are in the writer's collection:

Sandilands, June 6, 1952: 1 female, males, coll: C. S. Quelch.

Sandilands, June 17, 1956: 7 females, males, coll: John Polusny.

Agassiz, June 25, 1968: 3 females, male, coll: ?

Brokenhead, July 4, 1954: 1 male, coll: Dan Mosquin.

Riding Mountain National Park, June 2, 1963: 4 females, 4 males, coll: W. Krivda and July 3, 1963: 2 females, 1 male, coll: W. Krivda.

It has been known for some years that different colonies produce adults in alternate years. Some produce adults in odd years; others in even years. It takes approximately 2 years for the adult to develop from the egg.

It has, therefore, proved of particular interest to discover that in Manitoba both kinds of colonies exist. This, in effect, allows two independent lines of evolutionary development to take place in relatively flat country that there could be no inbreeding between the odd and even year forms.

Too little collecting has been done in Manitoba and too little material is available for study or for drawing satisfactory conclusions. From the present few records available it would seem that the form that flies in even years occurs in eastern Manitoba and that the form flying in odd years is established in central Manitoba (Riding Mountain Natl. Park) and ranges some 300 miles northward to The Pas, on the edge of the Hudsonian Life Zone or Transition Forest. More extensive collecting will likely locate additional colonies in the intervening area. New evidence, just come to hand, establishes that Macoun's Arctic occurs some 35 to 40 miles north of The Pas on the Flin Flon Highway. This is over Devonian limestone at Roc

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Red-disked Alpine**

Lake. It may reach Flin Flon or just all short of this area as the Pre-Cambrian Shield outcrops here with a corresponding change in soils and grass species. A local grass or sedge is the likely food plant of the caterpillar of this fine butterfly.



Ringlet**

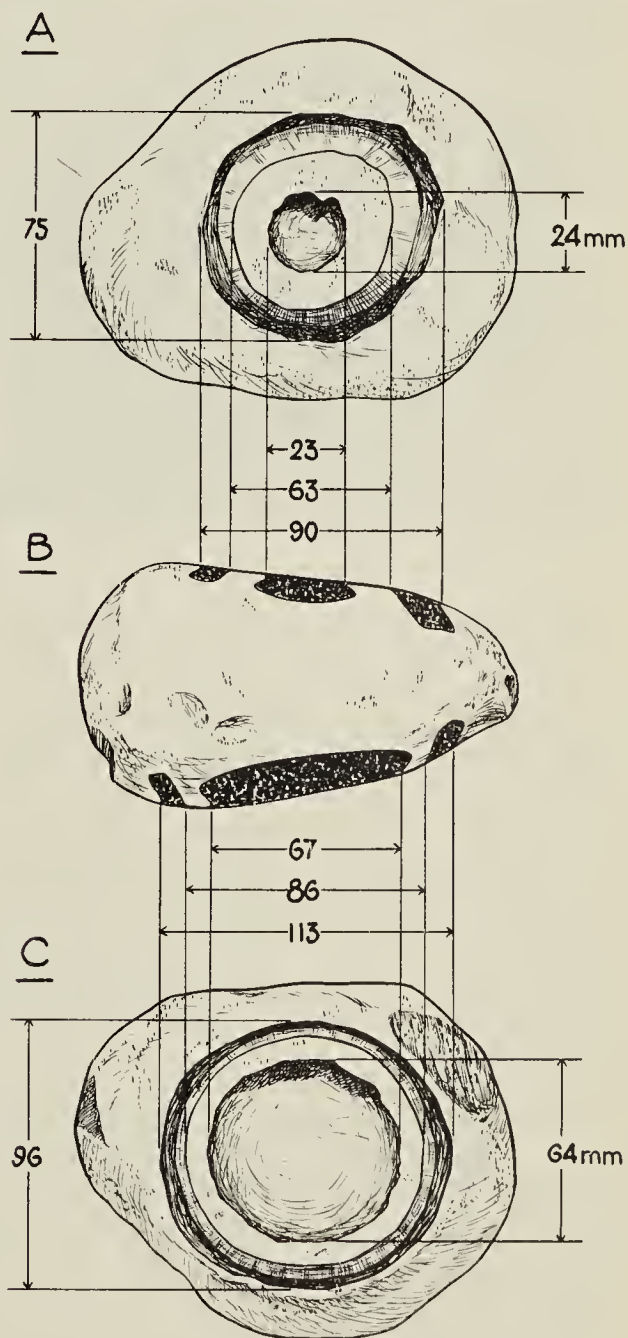
From the early and restricted collections in Manitoba, one would suspect that Macoun's Arctic is a scarce Manitoban butterfly. It may be more frequent than is at present suspected. Its short flight period may contribute to this conclusion; its occurrence in alternate years only in each area would tend to reduce data on the species as well as specimens in collections. More research is needed.

* Illustrations from *Butterflies of Saskatchewan*, by Ronald R. Hooper. Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources, Regina, Sask. 1973.

CONCRETION FOUND AT TISDALE, SASKATCHEWAN

by STAN D. RIOME*

The experience of a disc striking a stone while working newly broken land was not unusual for Mr. Howard G. Wenham on his farm 7 miles north and 3 miles west of Tisdale in 1955. One particularly spine shattering lurch made him think some unkind thoughts, so much so, that when he hit the same rock on the next round, he climbed off and picked it up. To his astonishment he



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H. G. Wenham's concretion.

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