

**A SECOND BRITISH SPECIMEN OF *BOHEMANNIA*
AURICILIELLA (JOANNIS) (= *BRADFORDI* EMMET)
(LEPIDOPTERA: NEPTICULIDAE) AND ITS POSSIBLE HOST**

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Ectoedemia bradfordi Emmet, 1974, was described from a single male taken by E. S. Bradford in Childs Forstal Wood in Kent (Emmet, 1974). Later a second male was found amongst unidentified material from The Netherlands (van Nieukerken, 1982), where it had been taken as early as 21.vi.1931 by Lycklama à Nijeholt in Hatert (near Nijmegen).

Emmet (l.c.) placed the species in *Ectoedemia* Busck, partly on the authority of J. Klimesch, who regarded it as related to the *augulifasciella*-group. However, careful examination of venation and male genitalia of the Dutch specimen leads to the conclusion that the species actually belongs to *Bohemannia* and is related to *B. quadrimaculella* (Boheman) (van Nieukerken, 1986b). Further, the study of the unique female of *Nepticula auriciliella* Joannis, 1908, previously synonymized with *quadrimaculella* (Klimesch, 1975), made it clear that *bradfordi* is nothing more than the male of *auriciliella*, the external characters being completely similar (van Nieukerken, 1986a). The holotype of *auriciliella* was taken in Vannes (France, Brittany) on 23rd June (Joannis, 1908). Thus the species was known until now from three widely separate localities in France, England and Holland.

To my surprise a second female and the second British specimen of *B. auriciliella* turned up in the collection of the late Carolsfeld-Krause in Copenhagen. It is labelled: Southampton, 11.vii.1937, W. Fassnidge, l. birch, ?headleyella Stt. det WF. This specimen was also taken in the south of England, which establishes it as a true resident British species. It was probably sent by S. N. A. Jacobs to Carolsfeld-Krause, in order to get a better identification than Fassnidge's provisional one, since the specimen does not resemble *Trifurcula headleyella* (Stainton) at all. It lacks its abdomen, but after my discovery, Roland Johansson (pers. comm.) found that one of a couple of unlabelled slides from the Carolsfeld-Krause collection contains female genitalia similar to those of the *auriciliella* holotype, which he had recently figured. Apparently this slide belongs to the Southampton specimen.

The most interesting aspect of this discovery seems to be the note on the label "l. birch". Most likely it indicates that Fassnidge reared the moth ex larva from birch (*Betula*), but it is unclear whether he reared the larva deliberately or that it came acci-

dentally from material brought in with birch material. We can assume that Fassnidge, without knowing it, was close to the solution of the biology of this species. All we can say now is that it most likely feeds on *Betula*. The fact that the closely related *B. quadrimaculella* feeds on alder (*Alnus*), a close relative of birch, makes it likely that both species have a similar life-history. That of *quadrimaculella* is imperfectly known, but we can assume that it feeds in buds, at least for part of its life (Emmet, pers. comm., cited in van Nieukerken, 1986b), other possibilities being petioles or shoots.

After the discovery of this specimen, I scanned the collections in the British Museum (Natural History), in early 1986, for additional specimens, but failed to find any. British collectors are therefore strongly recommended to have another look at their collections, to see if there are any additional specimens of *auriciliella* and to try to collect moths in June or July, preferably near birch.

To summarize, *Bohemannia auriciliella* (= *bradfordi*) is known from two males and two females, all taken in June or July, it possibly feeds on *Betula*, and it occurs in the Atlantic part of Europe. A complete description of the species, including figures of the genitalia and water-colours of the external characters, will be given in a forthcoming volume of *Fauna entomologica scandinavica*.

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