

# Michigan Range Expansion for *Coenonympha tullia* *inornata* (Lepidoptera: Satyridae)

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On 17 August 2003, while searching for dragonflies in southern Wayne County, MI (~42°09'N, 83°18'W; T4S R10E, section 7), I saw a butterfly that looked "different," which I netted and recognized as a Satyridae, although the species did not come to mind immediately. I knew this was not a familiar species to me for southern Michigan, so I collected it.

I later identified it as *Coenonympha tullia*. A Holarctic species, found in North America, northern Europe, and temperate Asia (Tolman 1997), it is extremely variable geographically, even among local populations (Scott 1986, Tolman 1997). Fourteen to twenty subspecies are recognized; Michigan specimens are *C. t. inornata* of the eastern U.S. and Canada (Scott 1986, Layberry et al. 1998, Nielsen 1999). Scott (1986) describes *C. t. inornata* as having dark uppersides (orange-brown in males, ochre in females), gray undersides, and few eyespots. The individual I collected was quite worn, but the uppersides were orangish, and there was an obvious eye spot on each forewing. Layberry et al. (1998) also notes that *C. t. inornata* usually has no markings, but that 60% will show a pale black eyespot with a silver border on the forewing apex, as in my specimen.

In Michigan, *C. t. inornata* is found in the Upper Peninsula and the extreme northern Lower Peninsula, south to Otsego Co. (southern border ~44°51'N). Further south, a population was found in St. Clair Co. on Detroit Edison property near St. Clair (~42°49'N) in August 1998 (M. Nielsen, pers. comm.). The Wayne Co. record, then, represents the southernmost record for Michigan by approximately 72 km (45 miles).

In Wisconsin, *C. t. inornata* is not found south of the northern tier of counties (Opler et al. 1995). In southwest Ontario, the range of *C. tullia* reaches to central Kent Co. (Anon. 2001). There is one record from Pelee Island (~41°46'N), approximately 42 km (26 miles) further south than the Wayne Co. site; this fresh individual was found on 5 August 2000 during the Pelee Island Butterfly Count (Anon. 2001).

The preferred habitat of *C. t. inornata* is grassy open areas, including meadows and fields (Opler et al. 1995), and the larval host plants are various species of grasses (Scott 1986, Opler et al. 1995). The Wayne Co. collection site was along a small creek in a newly developed subdivision. Only roads had been put in, the rest of the site had been cleared and graded, and had a summer's worth of weedy growth. The site was a former agricultural field. Within a mile, however, were patches of remnant prairie (known locally as the "Sibley Prairie" complex) that supports native prairie vegetation including native grasses

(*Panicum* sp., *Andropogon* sp., etc.), sedges (*Carex* sp.), and perennial forbs such as *Liatris* sp., *Coreopsis tripteris*, *Veronicastrum virginicum*, etc. Much of this prairie complex is privately owned, and is either being taken over by woody vegetation or being developed.

Scott (1986) notes that *C. t. inornata* is expanding southward in New England. This species has also been advancing south for several decades in Ontario (Layberry et al. 1998, Anon. 2001).

The specimen is housed at the Univ. of Michigan, Museum of Zoology.

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## T&E Insect Update

Robert A. Haack

MES Newsletter Editor

The US federal government now recognizes 35 insect species as *endangered* and 9 as *threatened* (<http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html#Species>). Since 2000, six insect species have been listed, all of them as endangered. They include the Helotes mold beetle, *Batrissodes venyivi* (Pselaphidae) [listed in 2000, found in Texas]; two unnamed ground beetles, *Rhadine exilis* and *Rhadine infernalis*, Carabidae, [both listed in 2000, both in Texas]; Ohlone tiger beetle, *Cicindela ohlone*, Cicindelidae, [2001, California]; Fender's blue butterfly, *Icaricia icarioides fenderi* (Lycaenidae), [2000, Oregon]; and Carson wandering skipper, *Pseudocopaodes eunus obscurus*, Hesperidae, [2001, California & Nevada].