

## On the flight of *Oeneis jutta* (Hübner 1806). (Satyridae).

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The aim of this paper is to describe an observation made together with my friend Mr. Sjöholm 20. VI. 1970. The locality of our observation was Finland: Pietersaari (= Jakobstadt): the neighbourhood of Pedersöre. The observation was made while we were collecting.

*Oeneis jutta* (Hübner 1806) is known to inhabit bogs at low altitudes, with sparse growing pine trees. The locality visited was of such character. It was very wet in that year and the bogs were dangerous in places. We found the first examples of *O. jutta* at around 13.00, flying fast in north-eastern direction, always with the sun behind them and keeping mostly approximately 50 cm above the ground. All specimens caught flying proved to be males apparently in search of females.

Whenever a male *jutta* came near a tree, a change in the flight appeared. The male flew close to the tree trunk until the top of the tree was reached and then in a gradual 'sailing' descended again to about 50 cm above the ground to resume the previous fast flight. We have not observed any 'return flight'; I think that it might take place in the earlier hours of the day, again in the 'fly away from the sun' direction.

This character of the flight of *jutta* causes the male to become worn in a very short time and seems to explain also the relative 'rarity' of males with 'fresh' appearance.

The females of *jutta* fly only sporadically, spending most of their time sitting on the tree trunks of pines. They are positioned on the trunk always in about 90° angle so that they can be seen against the sun. Also the pairing *jutta* can be found settling in similar way on the trunks of pine trees.

The habit of females to settle on the tree trunks in the above described way explains the motivation of female searching flight of males, which seems to continue until the search is successful. Owing to the large size of the locality in part investigated by us – several hundred square kilometers – the numbers of specimens caught appears to be very small: about four hours of collecting produced 20 specimens between us two; only three of the collected specimens were females. However, the number of collected specimens does not express accurately the abundance of this species: the terrain is very difficult and both the observer and the collector are at a disadvantage.

I revisited the same locality six years later – in 1976 – but this time without ever seeing of *O. jutta*. The locality was dry partly owing to the dry summer of that year, partly also owing the locality (at least in part) having been recently drained. Whether *O. jutta* still has surviving colony near Pedersöre is not known to me and the survival of it in other localities affected by similar land improvement schemes may be uncertain.

Das Flugverhalten von *Oeneis jutta* (Hübner 1806) wird beschrieben und eine Interpretation seiner Bedeutung wird vorgeschlagen: Die Männchen fliegen dicht über dem Boden von einer Kiefer zur anderen; auf der Suche nach an den Stämmen sitzenden Weibchen fliegen sie in einer Spirale bis zu den Baumspitzen aufwärts.

### **Résumé**

Le vol d'*Oeneis jutta* Hübner 1806 est décrit et une explication de sa motivation est proposée: les mâles volent de pin en pin, bas au dessus du sol, et recherchent les femelles posées sur les troncs grâce à un vol spiralé jusqu'au sommet de l'arbre.

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