

Revised status of *Schinia unimacula* Smith including morphological comparisons with *Schinia obliqua* Smith (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Heliothinae)

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Abstract

Schinia unimacula is resurrected from the synonymy of *S. obliqua* and is treated as a full species based on differences in maculation and male and female genitalic structures. *Schinia coolidgei* Hill remains a synonym of *S. unimacula*. Genitalia of both sexes of *S. unimacula* and *S. obliqua* are described and illustrated for the first time.

Key words: *Schinia unimacula*, *Schinia obliqua*, taxonomy, biology, host plant, *Ericameria nauseosa*

Introduction

In his monograph of the North American Heliothinae, Hardwick (1996) synonymized *Schinia unimacula* Smith and *Schinia coolidgei* Hill with *Schinia obliqua* Smith. Previous to his monograph both *S. unimacula* and *S. obliqua* were treated as separate species. However, there are characters, in both the maculation and genitalia that separate *S. unimacula* and *S. obliqua*. We leave *S. coolidgei* a synonym of *S. unimacula*, as it has been in the literature (McDunnough 1938, Franclemont and Todd 1983, Poole 1989, Poole and Gentili 1996). We are treating *S. unimacula* as a full species by resurrecting it from the synonymy of *S. obliqua*. We also illustrate the male and female genitalia of both *S. unimacula* and *S. obliqua* for the first time, and note that the illustrations in Hardwick (1996) are *S. unimacula*, not *S. obliqua*. The biology of *S. obliqua* is unknown.