
CISSIA MITCHELLI (FRENCH) FOUND IN OHIO, WITH
NOTES ON ITS HABITS.
LEPIDOPTERA—SATYRIDÆ.

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Cissia mitchelli was first described in 1889, by Professor French, from specimens collected from Cass County, Michigan, by Professor J. N. Mitchell. Professor Mitchell also believed that he had observed it in central Michigan. The first specimens were collected in a dry upland meadow, near a wet meadow and marsh, but later Professor Mitchell found them much more abundant in the marshy area. He writes, "It flies low, for short distances, in a weakly manner, and is best started by beating up, or by walking rapidly and noisily through the grass. * * * If there is more than one brood of Mitchell in a season, the last one begins to fly July 1st. I have taken it from July 1st-10th. As far as I can tell it comes in quickly and goes off the field rather abruptly after a short period of life". On July 10, 1890, Mr. Charles W. Johnson captured one specimen near Dover, Morris County, New Jersey.

On July 4th, 1925, I captured six specimens of this rare butterfly in a swampy meadow on the edge of a peat swamp, near Streetsboro, Portage County, Ohio. The insect was very abundant, but specimens in fair or good condition were exceedingly hard to find. About two weeks later when I again had the opportunity of visiting this spot not a specimen was observed.

In 1926, on July 4th, I visited the spot where I had collected and seen this butterfly the previous year. There wasn't an individual to be found. Six days later, July 10th, I returned and found the insect plentiful, most of them in very good condition showing that the adults had just matured. I did not have an opportunity to return until the 24th of July, at which time only a single specimen, a female, was seen.

Cissia mitchelli appears to be confined to an open swampy peat meadow about an acre in extent. The vegetation of this area is low, although surrounding this spot, it becomes rank and tall. The dominant growth is a swamp grass, Virginia chain-fern (*Anchistia virginica*), and bedstraw (*Galium boreale*). Scattered throughout the area are dwarf specimens of the common blue wood aster (*Aster cordifolius*), and the showy ladies'-slipper (*Cypripedium reginæ*). Tamarack, maple, and choke cherry trees partly hem in this spot. The rest is bordered on one side by cat-tails which are gradually encroaching, and on the other side by a rank growth of swamp grass and weeds.

Cissia mitchelli is very easily captured. It rests quietly on a blade of grass or a weed stem, usually with the head down, until approached to within three or four feet. The butterfly will flutter up with a weak irregular flight, typical of the satyrids, rising seldom more than four or five feet from the ground, and settle again about ten feet away. The female is slightly stronger in flight than the male. At no time did I observe any protracted flight; moreover the males showed little vigor or tenacity when fighting. I observed no insect either feeding or ovipositing.

Associated with this butterfly were specimens of *Satyrodes canthus* and *Cercyonis alope*. The most striking feature of the habits of this butterfly is its confinement to one small area. Although there are many similar spots throughout this several hundred acre peat swamp, no other place yielded any specimens of this insect.