

The Emergence of a Specimen of *Psychomorpha epimenis* Drury (*Lepidoptera*) From a Goldenrod Ball Gall

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of a specimen of *Psychomorpha epimenis* Drury (*Lepidoptera*) from a goldenrod ball gall is reported.

DISCUSSION

A collection of goldenrod ball galls (N=88), made on March 27, 1989 along a riverside path in Sylvan Island Park, Moline, Rock Island County, Illinois was separated into galls showing and not showing signs of predation. On April 3, 1989 there emerged from one of the galls showing predation a specimen of *Psychomorpha epimenis*. The larva of this moth typically feeds on the terminal shoots of grape or Virginia Creeper early in spring (Comstock, 1940). When it is ready to transform, usually towards the end of May, it enters the ground or bores into soft wood to form a chamber, where it remains until the following spring (Comstock, 1940).

Downy Woodpeckers (*Picoides pubescens*), by burrowing tunnels, often prey upon insects within these tunnels (McAtee, 1933; Uhler, 1951; Fischer, 1974; and Terres, 1980). Occurrence of this specimen is one of interest, since the tunnel in this particular gall was complete, thus indicating it has been preyed upon. It is suspected the *P. epimenis* larva entered the gall through a tunnel made a year earlier, in the spring of 1988, and this gall was not preyed upon in 1989. To my knowledge, this species has not yet been reported as using a goldenrod ball gall. The specimen is in the Augustana College insect collection.

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