

Genus MELALOPHA, Hübn (= *Ichthyura*, Hübn.)

M. ALETHE, n. sp.

We have before us a ♀ specimen from Truckee, California, which seems to be undescribed. It is possible that we have to do with *M. apicalis*, though the description of Walker does not fit. It is allied to *M. multnoma*, Dyar, and *M. brucei*, Hy. Edw.

Colour, obscure gray or drab, with the usual deep brown thoracic mark. Fore wings slightly purplish ("ecru drab," Ridgway's nomenclature of colours, plate III., fig. 21), the lines as in *brucei* and *multnoma*, but white and narrower, more as in *pigra*, powdery, obsolescent, under the lens narrowly broken here and there, the fourth forming a distinct, somewhat S-shaped bend at costa, where it is slightly widened and distinctly white. The wing is very uniform in colour, without the contrasting shades of *brucei* and *multnoma*; there is no subapical rusty patch except the merest trace outside the 4th line, but a moderately distinct deep brown shade overspreads the whole apical portion of the wing from the third line outward, reaching downward to vein 3, and being most strongly marked in the region of the 4th line. It recalls the ornamentation of *M. anachoreta*, Fabr.; but is far from being as distinct as in that species. This shading is present in *M. var. ornata* and *M. brucei* and others, but these have also the shade bordering the 3rd line, so that the resemblance to *anachoreta* is obscured. Subterminal series of interspaceal dots nearly straight, very uniform, and not obscured by the shading.

Hind wings drab (Ridgway, plate, III., fig. 18), immaculate. Expanse, 28 mm.

The following table will serve to separate the North American forms of Melalopha. Omitted names are referred to the synonymy:—

Lines not anastomosing, the 3rd running free from internal margin to costa.

Only the 4th line present (?). *apicalis*, Walk.

Lines all present.

Size large, basal line straight.

Colour dark, with black subapical patch. *albosigma*, Fitch.

Colour paler, patch brown. *var. specifica*, Dyar.

Size smaller, basal line angulated and curved.

Of uniform tint, subapical rusty patch very

obscure. *alethe*, Neum. and Dyar.