

A new form of *Hymenia recurvalis* (Fabricius) from the Canary Islands (Lep., Pyralidae)

by

B. J. LEMPKE

Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie (Zoölogisch Museum), Amsterdam

ABSTRACT. — Among a series of *Hymenia recurvalis* (Fabricius) taken on the island of Tenerife in October 1973 an apparently new form turned up. It is figured and described as f. *tricolor* nov.

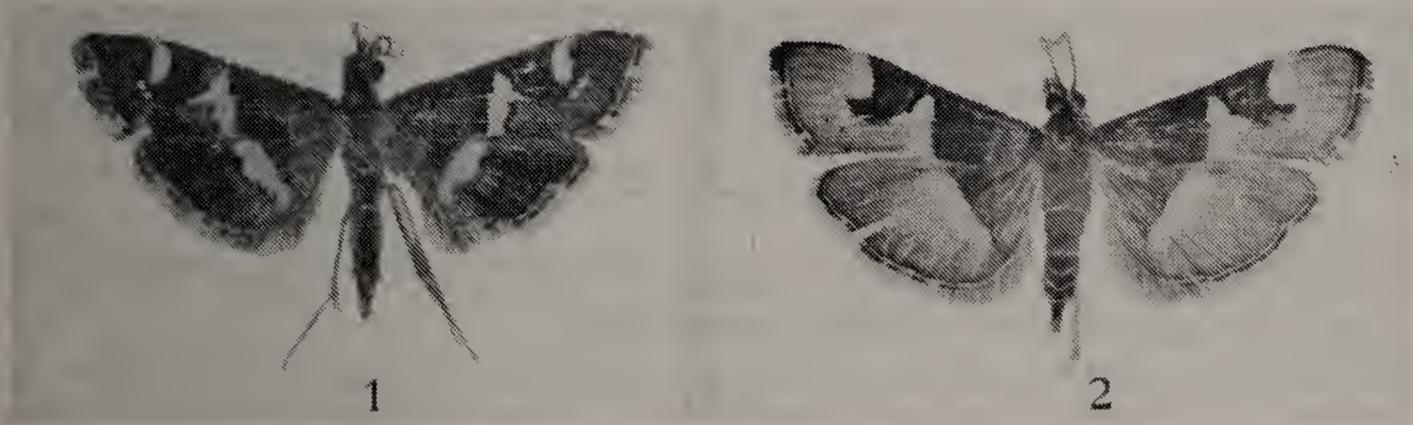


Fig. 1, 2 *Hymenia recurvalis* (Fabricius). 1. ♂, Las Galletas, Tenerife, 12.X.1974; 2. f. *tricolor*, ♀, same data. Photos J. Huisenga.

Late in September and in the first two weeks of October 1973 I visited the island of Tenerife in the company of Dr. G. Kruseman and his wife. Our principal aim was collect Orthoptera for the collection of the Amsterdam museum. Whereas both my companions pursued this aim assiduously I also directed my attention to other insects among which of course the Lepidoptera. One of the most common species was the Pyralid *Hymenia recurvalis*, in our northern latitude an extremely rare immigrant. The species was especially met with on waste grounds, covered with grasses, a species of Chenopodiaceae and sometimes an *Aster* species with small white flowers. With one stroke of the net a dozen or more could be caught. Yet walking through the grass was not a real pleasure, for the ear of one of the Gramineae always broke into small pieces when it was touched with the legs and they hooked on to shoe laces and socks. Every time it cost a lot of patience to get rid of them.

This did not prevent me, however, from collecting a nice series of *recurvalis*. The species is very stable both in colour and markings. Yet when I was setting the specimens later on I discovered among them a ♀ belonging to a very striking form which is certainly worth mentioning. It is apparently a new form the description of which is as follows: the normal black-brown ground colour is strongly reduced, the base of the fore wings and the outer area of both fore and hind wings are paler brown and the white central band is enlarged. Because of this division of colours I name it f. *tricolor* nov. The specimen was taken near the village of Las Galletas at the border of a banana plantation on 12 October 1973. It is now in the collection of the Amsterdam museum.

In 1974 we again visited Tenerife at about the same time. This year the season had been extremely dry and insects were much scarcer than in 1973. Although *recurvalis* was common, it was much less abundant now and a second specimen of f. *tricolor* could not be detected.

I thank Mr. J. Huisenga for the excellent photos he prepared with this note.