

## The caterpillar of *Zygaena esseni* Blom (Lepidoptera)

by

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**ABSTRACT.** — The caterpillar of *Zygaena esseni* Blom, 1973, is described after material collected in Iran with the type series.

The first description of the imago of *Zygaena esseni*, given by Blom (1973), was based on specimens from Iran, prov. of Khorasan, Tus. In that locality W. L. Blom and A. J. van Essen not only collected the imagines of this new species, but also several caterpillars. The caterpillars were found feeding on the leaves and flowers of the Papilionacea *Alhagi persarum* Boise & Buhs. We shall give a short description of the caterpillar, without acclaiming any completeness. The importance of the data given can only follow from comparative studies of other Zygaenidae-larvae. Gerasimov (1952) gives some details on the morphology of Zygaenidae caterpillars; we could not find a comparative study in literature.

### Description (fig. 1)

According to Blom, „the living caterpillar is of a dull greenish colour, with a light middorsal line and a yellow suprastigmatic line on the sides; the anterior half of each segment bears on each side two more or less quadrangular black dots”.

The three specimens I received were preserved in alcohol 70 pct and were yellowish, with paired black dots in the dorsal region. In the description the setal nomenclature corresponds to that given by Beck, (1960).

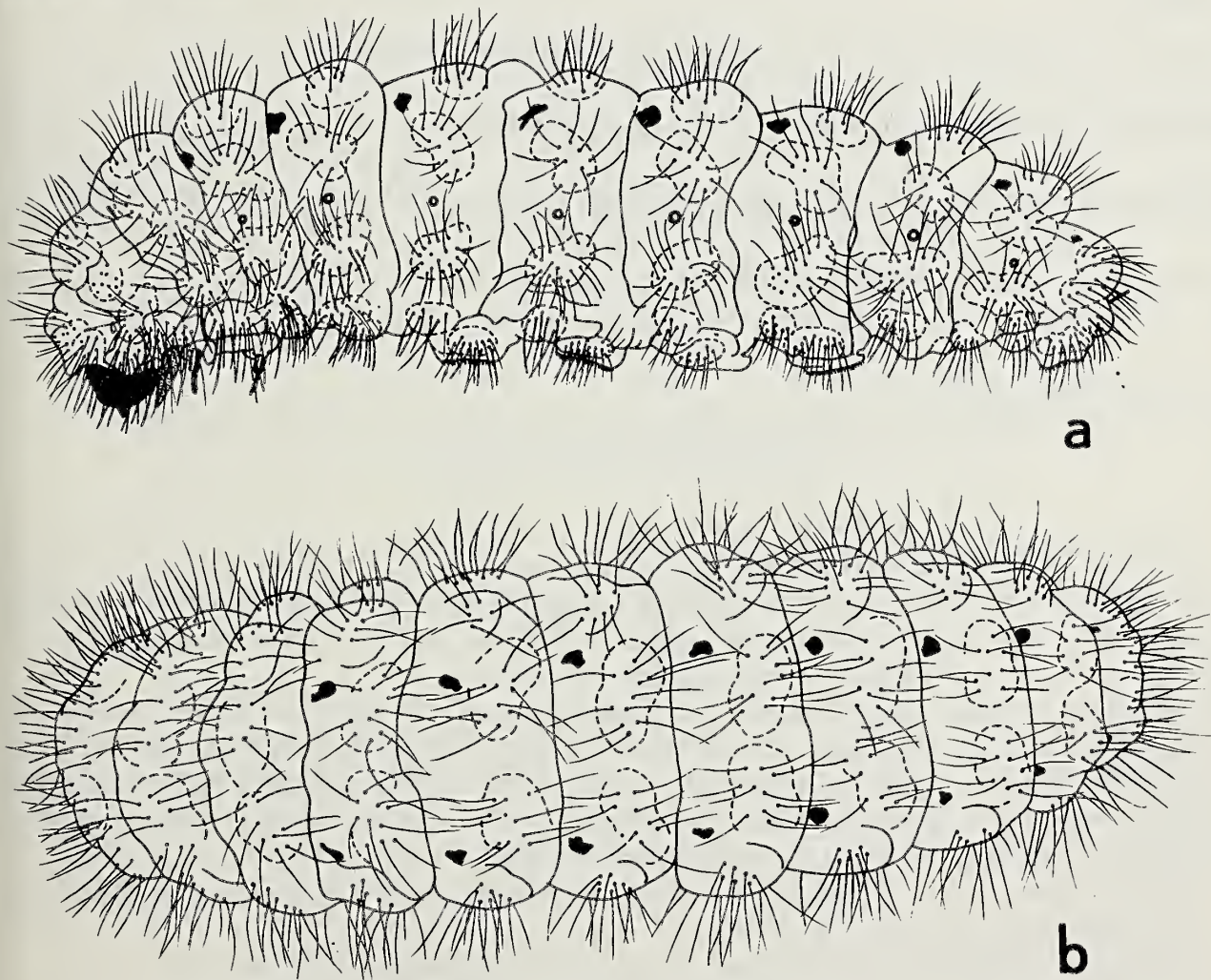


Fig. 1. Caterpillar of *Zygaena esseni* Blom: a, lateral view: b, dorsal view.

## Head

The rostral part of the hemisphere and clypeus are glossy black; mouthparts yellowish, the keratinized parts dark brown-black; lateral margins of the frons slightly curved.

— Setae: P1 lateral from perpendicular through p2; horizontal line through Fr1, beneath that through P1; F1 and Fr1, on same perpendicular; A3-A2  $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  A2-A1.

— Hypopharynx: upper surface regularly curved, gorge with a few, short spinulae, rostral parts of the maxillula as in the praemaxillular region; lingual region smooth, shortly spinulate; blade of the maxillula probably with a dentate-spinulate margin.

— Labial palpi: Lp2  $1\frac{2}{3}$  Lp1, Lp2  $\frac{2}{3}$  Lpg1.

— Spinneret: rather short, length of ventral surface  $3 \times$  Lpg1; dorsal length 0,5 ventral length.

— Antennae: white, the keratinized rings brown, terminal bristle as long as the basal segment.

— Maxillae: as antennae; terminal bristle 3,5 length terminal segment,  $\leq$  length basal segment.

— Mandibulae: dark brown, the first three teeth well developed, innerteeth absent.

## Thorax and abdomen

— Primary and secondary setae grouped on slightly elevated pads.

— Dorsal pads (with 5-7 setae) confluent with dorsolateral pads (with 5-6 setae). Lateral suprastigmatal pads with 9-12 setae; lateral infrastigmatal pads with 18-20 setae. The pads on the lateral side of the prolegs and the homologue pads on the abdominal segments 1 and 2 bear 16-18 setae.

— Crochets uniordinal, 20-26 on the prolegs; anal prolegs with 23-26 crochets.

— Spiracles: circular, black; rim shining black, diameter on abdominal segment 9,5 that on segment 10.

## LITERATURE

Beck, H., 1960. *Die Larvalsystematik der Eulen* (Noctuidae). 406 p., 488 fig. Akademie Verlag, Berlin.

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Gerasimov, A. M., 1952. In: *Fauna SSSR, Lepidopterous insects, 1, 2, Caterpillars, 1*, Moskow. (Zool. Insti. Ac. Sc. SSSR, New Series, 56) (in Russian).

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ACULEATA IN SCHOORL. In juli 1975 heb ik verzameld in „Het kleine Ganzenveld”, een deel van het duincomplex bij Schoorl. Langs de paden was een enkele meters brede strook begroeid met voornamelijk *Tanacetum vulgare* L., *Sedum acre* L., *Rubus spec.* en *Senecio jacobaea* L., waarop de volgende soorten vlogen:

Sphegidae: *Podalonia hirsuta* Scopoli, *Ammophila campestris* Latreille (veel kleine exemplaren, een gevolg van de slechte zomer 1974?), *A. sabulosa* Linnaeus, *Psen equistris* Fabricius, *Tachysphex nitidus* Spinola, *T. panzeri* van der Linden en *T. pompiliformis* Panzer, *Oxybelus argentatus* Curtis, *O. bipunctatus* Oliver en *O. mandibularis* Dahlbom, *Crabro peltarius* van der Linden en *C. cribrarius* Linnaeus en *Podalonia affinis* Kirby.

Apidae: *Osmia claviventris* Thomson, *Coelioxys conoidea* Klug en *Prosopis gibba gibba* Saunders.  
Pompilidae: *Arachnospila anceps* Wesmael.

Vespididae: *Pterocheilus phaleratus* Panzer en *Stenodynerus dentisquama* Thomson.

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