

A review of the *Schinia tertia* (Grote) species complex (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Heliothinae)

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Abstract

Four closely related species of *Schinia* are diagnosed using characters of maculation, genitalia, larval host plants, and distribution. The **revised status** of both *Schinia albafascia* Smith and *Schinia brunnea* Barnes and McDunnough are based on differences in wing maculation and male and female genitalic structures. The **revised synonymy** of *Schinia megarena* Smith with *Schinia tertia* (Grote) is discussed. Male and female genitalia are described and illustrated for the first time for all species.

Key words: systematics, genitalia, morphology comparison, host plant, *Ericameria nauseosa* (Pallas ex Pursh) Nesom & Baird, *Ericameria paniculata* (A. Gray) H. M. Hall (Asteraceae), *Isocoma acradenia* var. *acradenia* (E. Greene) E. Greene (Asteraceae)

Introduction

This is the fifth in a series of recent papers resolving taxonomic problems in the North American species of the large heliothine genus *Schinia*. The first dealt with *S. unimacula* Smith and *S. obliqua* Smith (Pogue and Harp 2003a); the second with the *S. cupes* complex (Pogue and Harp 2003b); the third with the *S. regia* complex (Pogue and Harp 2003c); and the fourth described a new species, *S. varix* (Knudson, Bordelon, & Pogue) (Knudson, et al. 2003). The purpose of this paper is to review a small group of *Schinia* species related to *S. tertia*, hereafter referred to as the *tertia* complex.

Species of the *tertia* complex are variable in forewing maculation, with a reniform spot and a medial white band in the forewing. The medial band can be filled in with ground color as in most specimens of *S. brunnea* Barnes & McDunnough and *S. erosa*