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A new species of *Schinia* Hübner (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Heliothinae) from Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana

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Abstract

Schinia varix, **new species,** is described, illustrated, and compared to similar species. Male and female adults and genitalia are figured. Comparative adults of *S. siren* (Strecker), *S. roseitincta* (Harvey), and *S. antonio* (Smith) also are figured.

Key words: *Schinia varix, Schinia siren, Schinia roseitincta, Schinia antonio*, Asteraceae, Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas Nature Conservancy

Introduction

The recent monograph on the Heliothinae of North America (Hardwick 1996) did not include this new species of *Schinia*, *Schinia varix*, **new species**. Because of this omission, we decided to describe this species to make the name available for the Texas Lepidoptera Survey. Beginning in 1944 a series of *S. varix* was collected in eastern Texas. Subsequent material was collected in Louisiana and Oklahoma.

From 1994–1997, Knudson and Bordelon accumulated a moderate-sized series of *S. varix* from various locations along road and trail margins within, or adjacent to, Big Thicket National Preserve in southeastern Texas. In other areas of Texas, *S. varix* was collected in the vicinity of mature beech-loblolly pine forest, pine savannah, and bay-gallberry bogs. Examples from Oklahoma were collected in oak-hickory areas.

Attempts were made to discover the biology of this species. The closely related species *S. siren* (Strecker) and *S. antonio* (Smith) both use Asteraceae as larval host plants. By searching and sweeping various Asteraceae in habitats where specimens of *S. varix* were

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