NOTES ON THE EARLY STAGES OF THREE BUTTERFLIES AND SIX MOTHS FROM CALIFORNIA

By John A. Comstock and Charles M. Dammers

Strymon columella Fabr.

We are indebted to Mr. C. Henne of South Pasadena for having secured the eggs of this species. While collecting at the California Lakes, Imperial County, November 25, 1934, he observed the female ovipositing on *Sida hederacea* Torr. An egg was secured, and the subsequent imprisoning of a gravid female with a spray of the foodplant resulted in two more. Eggs which were deposited November 25 hatched December 2 and 6.

Egg. Size .6 mm. in diameter x about .3 mm. high. Echinoid. Color, pea green, the micropyle slightly darker, and measuring about .012 mm. in diameter.

The surface is covered with a fine mesh of reticulated walls, enclosing cells of an irregular hexagonal form. These walls are low as compared with most Lycaenid eggs, and are of the same color as the body of the egg. Their junctures are only slightly thickened and protruded.

The micropylar cells are of the same size as those on the body of the egg, but their walls are narrower. See Plate 16.

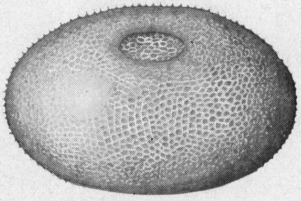

PLATE 16

Egg of *Strymon columella* enlarged x 6.

Drawing by J. A. Comstock

The larvae were raised on common Malva, and fed mostly on the stems and unfolded young leaves.

Larva, first instar; length extended, 1.5 mm. Color, pale greenish white.

There are eight rows of long curved white hairs, one hair to a segment, as will be noted in Fig. A of Plate 17. These arise from pale brown punctae. Across the top of the first segment there is a large pale brown scutellum.