

*Delayed emergence in Senometopia intermedia* (Herting) (Dipt., Tachinidae). — On 22.viii.2006 I collected some larvae of *Lomaspilis marginata* (L.) (Lep., Geometridae) feeding on *Salix atrocinerea* at Silwood Park, Ascot, Berks, which pupated over the next week or two. In 2007 a few moths emerged but, as is often the case in this species, many of the pupae lay over for adults to emerge in a subsequent year, several doing so in 2008. It was a surprise, however, when a female of the tachinid parasitoid *Senometopia intermedia* (Herting) emerged from one of these pupae (having formed its puparium within) on 4.viii.2008. In over 40 years of intensively rearing parasitoids, I have never observed a tachinid to delay its development in this way, although in a few parasitic Hymenoptera such delays are known. In those cases two mechanisms appear to lie behind the phenomenon. First, the cocooned fully grown parasitoid larva may sometimes delay for a year its onward development to a committed prepupal stage (for example, as was seen in the acenitine ichneumonid *Acaenitus dubitator* (Panzer), which could thereby spend either just one or also a second winter in its cocoon; Shaw, M.R. & Wahl, D.B., 1989, *Systematic Entomology* 14: 117–125). Second, the larval development of the incompletely grown parasitoid (necessarily a koinobiont endoparasitoid in this case) may be suspended while the still-living host persists in prolonged diapause (for example, as was seen in the hyperparasitic culophid *Baryscapus houceki* Askew & Shaw, whose development proceeded to its pupal stage only after the braconid in which it was developing broke its own diapause of several years; Askew, R.R. & Shaw, M.R., 2005, *Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemoslovenicae* 69: 11–14). It is not clear which situation was most closely paralleled by the above *S. intermedia*, though the latter seems most likely. Incidentally, R. Belshaw (1993, *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 10: 4a(i)) mentions *L. marginata* as a host of this tachinid in mainland Europe, but the only reared British specimen that he saw was from the rather closely related geometrid *Abraxas sylvata* (Scopoli).

I am grateful to David M. Robertson for identifying the present specimen, which has been deposited in the National Museums of Scotland — MARK R. SHAW, Honorary Research Associate, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, U.K.; November 7th, 2008.