

FEMALE

Total length reaches 16 mm, abdomen 9 mm diameter; hair white, integument pale yellow, never reddish.

IMMATURE STAGES

Ovum. 1.13 mm diameter, otherwise as in *M. huttoni*.

Larva. First instar larva 5 mm, identical to *M. huttoni*; growth is more rapid but colour very similar to *M. huttoni* from second to fifth instars; short setae covering intersegmental regions golden yellow, not whitish. Ultimate instar larva reaches a length of 35–40 mm, females larger than males; velvety-black, head and leg sclerites glossy black, verrucae dark iridescent blue in strong light; short, deep yellow setae form intersegmental bands on all segments except prothoracic, mesothoracic and anal, never as pale or as numerous as in *M. huttoni*.

Pupa. Length of male 16 mm; female 20 mm; patches of setae inconspicuous with extremely short setae; other features of pupa and cocoon as in *M. huttoni*.

TYPES. Three male and one female syntypes from Mt Arthur, Nelson, January 15, 1886, E. Meyrick. (Four syntypes, British Museum; one paratype, Canterbury Museum.)

RECORDS. North Island: Head of Waipawa River, Ruahine Range, 4,000ft to 5,000ft, R 70", reared, 1932–33 (E. S. West); head of Wangawa River, Tararua Range, 3,600ft, subalpine scrub and tussock bog, R 200", 26/11/58, larvae and imagos (G. W. Gibbs), 7/3/59, larvae only (G. W. Gibbs). South Island, Nelson: Mt Arthur, 4,000ft, open tussock, R 100", 15/1/86 (E. Meyrick), 23/1/89, 8/1/91 (G. V. Hudson); Mt Peel, 7/1/96 (G. V. Hudson), 28/12/12 (A. Hamilton); Gordon's Pyramid, Arthur Range, 25/1/24 (S. Lindsay); Nuggets Knob, Upper Wangapeka River, 4,500ft, tussock mountain tops, 26/12/61 (G. W. Gibbs). Canterbury: Lewis Pass, 3,000ft, tussock clearing in beech forest, R 100", Dec. '58, larvae only (J. T. Salmon); Goat Pass, Head of Mingha River, 4,000ft, open *Dracophyllum* scrub and tussock, R 160", February '37 (A. G. Macfarlane); Upper Waimakariri River, December, '35 (R. C. Cooke); Upper Rakaia River, R 60", 2/12/33, 9/12/33 (L. White). Otago: Mt Earnslaw, 5,000ft to 6,000ft, open tussock, R. 59", 22/12/22 (C. C. Fenwick), 1/1/41 (R. Parlin); Ben Lomond, Lake Wakatipu, 4,000ft, 10/1/21 (C. C. Fenwick). Westland: Upper Hokitika River, December, '56, larvae only (N.Z. Forest Service survey). Southland: Lake Marian, Hollyford Valley, 2,400ft, grassy slopes of lake shore, 27/12/59, larvae only (G. W. Gibbs); Marion, Hollyford Valley, December, '42 (G. Howes); Upper Hollyford Valley, 3,000ft, open river flats, 26/12/59 (G. W. Gibbs); Homer Valley, 3,300ft, rocky slope with mixed vegetation, R 280", January, '42 (G. Howes), 17/12/43, 21/12/44 (J. T. Salmon), 24–29/12/59 (G. W. Gibbs); Cleddau Valley, 3,000ft, 17/12/44 (J. T. Salmon); Pompalona Hut, Milford Track, 1,800ft, subalpine river flats, R 180", 7/12/32 (L. White); McKinnon Pass, Milford Track, 3,400ft, open tussock, R 200", 27 and 28/12/19 (Campbell) (C. E. Clarke); Southland: Mt Kemp and Kepler Range, Lake Te Anau, December and January (C. E. Clarke).

REMARKS. Variation in male imagos is similar to that in *M. huttoni*. Wingspan measurements of 86 specimens ranged from 31–41 mm, with the majority between 36 and 38 mm. Colour variations involve the extent of the black markings and the depth of colour in the coalesced costal and subcostal streaks. This latter, however, is never as bright as in *M. huttoni*. The pale colour of both wings is almost invariably of the same tone. Female imagos may be distinguished by their large size and creamy yellow colour after oviposition, never reddish. Very little variation occurs in the larva, this being distinguished from *M. huttoni* by the darker golden intersegmental bands. Food plants are the same as for *M. huttoni*. Cocoons are normally found beneath stones.

***Metacrias strategica* (Hudson). (Figs. 4 and 11.)**

1899. *Arctia* (*Metacrias*) *strategica* Hudson, p. 53.

1890. *Metacrias strategica* (Huds.). Meyrick, p. 216.

1892. *Metacrias strategica* (Huds.). Kirby, p. 263.

1898. *Metacrias strategica* (Huds.). Hudson, p. 4, Pl. IV, fig. 4.