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Subimaginal molt of *Caenis hilaris* (Say) (Ephemeroptera: Caenidae)¹

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Edmunds (1956) in a review of exuviation in flight of subimaginal Ephemeroptera, stated that he has observed *Caenis simulans* McDunnough to molt while at rest. The following observation tends to substantiate his contention that *Caenis* only "appears" to molt during flight as it drops the subimaginal exuviae which have clung to the imaginal cerci.

At 7 p.m. (C.S.T.) on August 22, 1957, large numbers of *Caenis hilaris* (Say) subimagoes were observed to molt on an overturned life boat at Lock 19, Keokuk, Iowa. Immediately upon alighting, the wings of the subimagoes were held horizontally and exuviation was quickly initiated. The longest elapsed time for a subimago to land, molt, and fly away as an imago, was 65 seconds and the shortest observed time was only 8 seconds. Apparently, molting was hastened by the onset of darkness, and after 7:10 p.m. very few subimagoes took longer than 10 seconds to land, exuviate and fly away. The subimaginal exuviae often remained attached to the imaginal cerci when the imago took to the air. Subimagoes, in undiminished numbers, were still molting at 7:20 p.m. when darkness rendered observation difficult.

LITERATURE CITED

EDMUNDS, G. F. JR. 1956. Exuviation of subimaginal Ephemeroptera in flight. Ent. News 47: 91-93.

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