

THE TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION OF UNCERTAIN AND RUSTIC

Feature	2381 The Uncertain <i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>	2382 The Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>
Forewing	14-16mm	13-16mm
Forewing shape	Broader, blunt-tipped	Straighter costa, less rounded dorsum
Forewing appearance	Rough-scaled coarse and granular	Smoother, glossy/shinier upper surface [beware wear]
Forewing colour	Light brown to greyish. Often ochreous or yellow-brown.	Never ochreous. Light brown to greyish – colder in tone
Cross-lines	More obvious – well defined especially the median line producing a banded appearance	More obscure – indistinct on a plainer forewing
Antemedian line	Dark and dentate [toothed] extending obliquely from costa to the dorsum	Not clearly defined but represented by a series of sparse black scales
Post-median line	Curves towards the dorsum	Comprises a series of black dots
Subterminal line	Dark and conspicuous	Pale with darker shading.
Stigmas	Outlined with fine whitish line. Large and well-defined. Slightly darker than ground colour	Lined minutely off-white
Reniform stigma [kidney mark]	Darker than the ground colour	Similar to the ground colour
Hindwing colour	Not helpful. Females always have darker hind-wings than males in both species.	There is fine dark veining that appears darker towards the pale whitish-grey outer margin.
Flight Time	Single-brooded; June to mid-August [with occasional records into end September/first week of October]. Tends to appear about 2 weeks before Rustic	Single-brooded; June to mid-August [with occasional records into end September/first week of October]
Habitat	Wide range mostly low-lying areas which include woodland, rough meadows and gardens	Wide range mostly low-lying areas which include woodland, rough meadows and gardens
Other	Might seem more robust.	

Notes:

[1] If fresh, well-marked examples of the Uncertain and the Rustic are seen *side-by-side*, they are easily identified. However, confusion can still often reign and worn individuals may be extremely difficult to identify with complete certainty; so much so, that it may be necessary to refer to the genitalia for confirmation.

[2] People may perceive colour tones quite differently and this may also apply to the perceived smoother, glossier, shinier upper surface of the forewing of Rustic. It should be noted that although the forewing of Rustic may be smoother and shinier than worn examples of Uncertain, it does not appear so when compared with fresh ones, especially darker female Uncertain. The state of wear should also be borne in mind.

Vine's Rustic *Hoplodrina ambigua* is less variable and often slightly smaller than Rustic or Uncertain. Forewing has almost straight leading edge and is usually pale greyish or greyish-brown, generally paler than Rustic or Uncertain with a relatively larger rounder orbicular stigmata [oval mark] and reniform stigmata [kidney mark], usually slightly darker than the ground colour, and usually distinctly white-edged.

Furthermore the hind-wings are whitish with a faint pearly sheen, often with a narrow grey outer band. Darker individuals may closely resemble Rustic, which is a little larger with a broader, slightly blunter forewing and less whitish hindwing.

There are two broods, from mid-May to at least the end of June and from mid-August to mid-October, which helps to separate it from Rustic and Uncertain which fly from mid-June to mid-August.

Vine's has been mistaken for a fresh Common Quaker, which has a more rounded, brownish forewing. Common Quaker typically flies between February and early May, however small numbers sometimes emerge in mild spells during the late autumn and winter [e.g. December records for Yorkshire 2004 and 2011].

Although the markings of **Mottled Rustic** are similar to Uncertain and Rustic, the orbicular stigmata and reniform stigmata are dark and blurred, lacking any crisp lighter edging. The reniform stigma is distinctly large and dark. The forewing is quite broad. The hindwing is whiter than that of Uncertain and Rustic.

The Uncertain Rustic



2381 Uncertain *Hoplodrina alsines*



2382 Rustic *Hoplodrina blanda*

	Uncertain	Rustic
Forewing appearance:	Rough-scaled coarse and granular.	Smoother, glossy/shinier upper surface [beware wear]
Forewing colour:	Light brown to greyish. Often ochreous or yellow-brown.	Never ochreous. light brown to greyish - colder in tone.
Cross - lines:	More obvious - well defined especially the median line producing a banded appearance.	More obscure - indistinct on a plainer forewing.
Stigmas:	Outlined with fine whitish line. Large and well-defined. Slightly darker than ground colour.	Lined minutely off-white
1. Antemedian line:	Dark and Dentate [toothed] extending obliquely from costa to the dorsum	Not clearly defined but represented by a series of sparse black scales
2. Post-medial line:	Curves towards the dorsum	Comprises a series of black dots
3. Subterminal line:	Dark and conspicuous.	Pale with darker shading.
4. Reniform stigma:	Darker than the ground colour.	Similar to the ground colour

Note, there will always be intermediate looking (or worn) Uncertain/Rustic specimens that can only be reliably separated by gen. det.

The Uncertain Rustic



Uncertain *Hoplodrina alsines*



Rustic *Hoplodrina blanda*



Vine's Rustic *Hoplodrina ambigua*



Mottled Rustic *Caradrina morpheus*

Although Uncertain typically has a much browner hindwing than Rustic, both female Uncertain and Rustic have a darker hindwing than the males of the two species. The hindwing of Rustic also shows fine dark veining that becomes progressively darker towards the pale whitish-grey outer margin.

Vine's Rustic is less variable and often slightly smaller than Uncertain and Rustic. Vine's forewing has an almost straight leading edge, is usually pale greyish or greyish-brown – generally paler than Uncertain or Rustic and has a relatively larger, rounder, orbicular stigmata [oval mark] and reniform stigmata [kidney mark], both of which are usually slightly darker than the ground colour and usually distinctly white-edged. Vine's hindwing is whitish with a faint pearly sheen, often with a narrow, grey outer band. Darker individuals may closely resemble the Rustic, which, however, is a little larger, with a broader, slightly blunter forewing and a less whitish hindwing, Rustic having a greyish-white to uniformly grey hindwing. For the sake of completeness, male Uncertain has a dirty brownish-grey hindwing, the female a more uniform darker grey hindwing.

Mottled Rustic, although the markings are similar to Uncertain and Rustic, the orbicular stigmata and reniform stigmata are dark and blurred, lacking any crisp lighter edging. The reniform stigma is distinctly large and dark. The forewing is quite broad. Hindwing is whiter than Uncertain and Rustic