

## NOTES ON CHARAXES PYTHODORUS PYTHODORUS.

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### REMARKS ON HABITS OF FEMALE.

I have watched *Ch. pythodorus* ovipositing, and it appears to be its habit to lay not more than four or five eggs on one tree, thus scattering the eggs over a large area. *Ch. pythodorus* is also apparently a very slow layer, taking at least two seconds over each egg. The only specimen of this insect that I succeeded in getting to lay laid eleven eggs and then died. I afterwards examined it, and the eggs were finished. Other specimens which died without laying had from 27 to 34 perfect eggs inside. *Ch. pythodorus* apparently will not lay in captivity unless the cage is in full sunlight.

The laying season would appear to be governed by the young leaf period of the food-plant. As this is very short, and the females will only lay on the young leaves, the laying periods seem to be very restricted.

### EARLY STAGES.

The eggs are large and pearly-white. They are laid, singly as a rule, but sometimes in pairs, on the under or upper surfaces, generally the former, of the young leaves of *Crabia brownei*. For 24 hours after laying it remains almost spherical, slightly flattened on top, then the usual depression appears. Twelve hours later, an irregular reddish ring appears round the rim of the depression, with a small red spot in the centre. The lower half of the egg becomes suffused with pinkish-brown. After three days the red markings turn grey-brown. Before hatching the egg turns black. The egg stage lasts eight to ten days.

The young larva is at first uniform olive-brown with a white tail and black head. The horns are white, and give the appearance of a frill. Immediately on emerging the larva eats the egg-shell, and very shortly after starts in search of food. After three days the larva becomes olive-green finely speckled with white. Each white spot consists of a small papillation bearing a minute hair. The head is now dark brown mottled with black. The horns remain white, and are short and broad, all four being of a more or less uniform length. The larva gradually becomes greener, until when it is a week old, the body is grass-green. The tail and horns remain white. When at rest, the larva lies along the mid-rib of the leaf with head raised. Two days before the first moult, in some specimens, a small white dorsal spot appears on the sixth segment. The first moult takes place after

ten days. The head is now brown with the lower parts green. In some specimens there is a well-marked dorsal spot on the sixth segment, consisting of a white spot bordered with brown. After the second moult the head becomes green, with mouth-parts black, bases of the lateral horns and tips of the inner horns dark brown, bordered with a pinkish line. The face is bordered with a yellowish line, which becomes broader towards the mouth. The body marks are as follows: A row of yellow dorso-lateral oblique lines from the fourth to the last segment. Each line starts from a spot in the front of each segment, runs obliquely forward through the segment in front of it, and enters the next segment to join a conspicuous white spiracular line. Segments 1 and 2 are without these lines, but have each a spot placed where these lines would start. Segment 3 has a small line, commencing as the others, but not entering segment 2. In some specimens there is a conspicuous dorsal spot on segment 6, in shape like an acorn, creamy-white, bordered with dark brown. It consists of a raised spot, higher at the back than at the front, like a pouch opening backward. In other specimens, however, there is no trace of this spot. The head continues the same in the fourth instar, but after the final moult changes slightly, in that the horns are shorter, thicker, and more upright, and the face is squarer. Throughout the whole larval stage, the body and head are finely papillated with yellow. The mature larva is from 45 to 50 mm. long. When the larva has curled just before pupating, it becomes slightly translucent, and the dorsal spot, when present, becomes pale green.

The pupa is a beautiful object. It is of the usual *Charaxes* form, 25 mm. long, pale green, with yellowish marbling over the dorsum of the thorax. The abdomen is slightly darker, ornamented with purplish spots arranged in a regular pattern. The spiracles are present as a row of purplish marks. The head is bluntly bifid. The only ornamentation on the wing-scutae is a row of four black spots, those on the inside being larger than on the outside. The cremaster consists of a pinkish stalk arising from a base, consisting of two kidney-shaped lobes, ochreous in colour. Two small blackish spines arise at the base, and lie along the abdomen, pointing forward. The abdominal segments are produced backward, forming almost a hump.