penetrate; still I cannot see any other way by which it could reach the eggs, unless the spider was compelled to retreat from the nest, when it was only partially covered with silk, and that the little ichneumon deposited her eggs amongst the group during the absence of the spider. If such is the case, the habits of the minute ichneumonidae are similar to those of the small parasitic species of *Microgaster*, for the latter always use stratagem, and, like the Dipterous cuckoo-flies, take advantage to deposit their eggs during the absence of the true owner of the nest. I do not know the species of spider to which the cocoon belongs.

NOTICE OF THE SPECIES OF DREPANODES.

BY AUG. R. GROTE, DEMOPOLIS, ALA.

It is easy to distinguish the species of the genus Drepanodes from the other Phalaenidae, by their falcate or acutely produced primaries and their strong casual resemblance, both in size and ornamentation, to the Platypteryginae (Drepana, Platypterix, Dryopteris), a sub-family of Bombycidae. This resemblance, while it has suggested to M. Guenée the generic name, is paralleled in the sub-order in different instances; but is here noteworthy as illustrating the synthetic relation which the great family Bombycidae sustains to the other moths. The nearer affinities of Drepanodes in its family are with Chaerodes.

In the eighth volume of the Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, will be found figures and descriptions of three species of this genus. Of these I have found D. puber and D. varus in central Alabama. A fourth, which I here describe, I have from the same locality. This species (D. sesquilinea) I believe to be identical with one of which I have seen many specimens from New York and Massachusetts, but which I cannot at this writing compare. This not improbably will be found in Canada.

Drepanodes sesquilinea, n. sp.

Male. Pale smooth fawn colour, slightly lustrous; irrorations sub-obsolete. Both median lines distinct on the primaries above. The inner roundedly angulated on the disc approximate to the black discal dot. The outer acutely angulated below costa, consisting of a very narrow whitish external line and a deep olivaceous preceding shade. Apices moderately produced. External margin lined with olivaceous. Terminally there are distinct dark clouded spots interspaceally, between the nervules, at the middle of the wing. On the secondaries the external line is distinctly continued. External margin edged with olivaceous and stained centrally with ochreous. Outside of the external line both wings are shaded with purplish. Beneath a little darker and more irrorate; the external line is visible on both wings and the black

discal dots. The long testaceous antennae are bi-pectinate to the tips. The body parts are paler than the wings. *Expanse* 26 m. m.

The less olivaceous more purely fawn and paler colour of this species, together with the deep and distinct lines above on the primaries, will distinguish it fron D. puber, which it resembles in the shape of the fore wings. The squamation is close and a little lustrous.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Rearing Eggs of Butterflies.—I have been so successful this season in persuading female butterflies to deposit their eggs in captivity, that I think it well to mention the matter in the *Entomologist*. Last season I found it impossible to induce *P. Marcellus* to lay upon leaves or stems of pawpaw that had been cut. This spring I placed a nail-keg, from which the bottom had been knocked out, the top being covered with cloth, over a low pawpaw growing near my house; and on confining a female Ajax therein, she at once began to deposit her eggs, and continued till the number reached more than twenty. In a few days the young larvæ came out, and with very little trouble I succeeded in raising several of them to the chrysalis state, in which they now are. (I expect to prove by this brood that Marcellus and Ajax are but different broods of the same insect; a fact I have felt confident of for some years past, but which I could not absolutely establish for want of the link which this experiment will supply). I afterwards treated other females of Ajax in the same manner, and with the same results.

A *C. Philodice*, confined in the same way with growing clover, at once deposited a great number of eggs. So did *Nisoniades Lycidas*, and *N. Pylades*, Scudder, upon Hedysarum. In fact in every instance so far tried, the females have obliged me with as many eggs as I wanted; and I incline to think this mode of taking eggs will always be successful.—W. H. Edwards. Coalburgh, West Va.

Colorado Potato Beetle.—This most destructive insect (*Doryphora 10-lineata*, Say) has appeared in the western parts of this province, and is already committing great ravages upon the potato plants. We have received specimens both in the larval and imago states from Windsor, county of Essex, and Colinville, county of Lambton, Ont. The most approved remedy for it is to dust the affected plants with a mixture of one part of Paris green and six parts of flour or ashes. Detailed illustrated descriptions of the insect may be found in the *American Entomologist* for November 1868, and in the forthcoming number of the *Weekly Globe* and *Canada Farmer*.

The Currant-bush Saw-fly.—I have moved this year to a house where there is a garden, in which I have made an unexpected discovery, namely,