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NOTES ON SOME NORTH AMERICAN LEPIDOPTERA.

BY ARTHUR G. BUTLER.

Our good friend, Mr. Henry Edwards, has recently presented to the British Museum a series of 115 Lepidoptera with pupa-cases &c. ; and, as at the same time, he writes that a few notes on these insects might prove interesting to the readers of "PAPILIO" I gladly forward observations on the *Sphingidæ*, which (if acceptable) I will supplement by remarks on the other groups.

HEMARIS CYNOGLOSSUM. *H. Edw.*

This species is nearly allied to the Texan insect to which I gave the name of *H. metathetis*. It differs in being slightly smaller and with the external dark brown border of the primaries of only two-thirds the width; these appear to be the only noteworthy distinctions between the two forms.

PTEROGON CLARKIÆ. *Boisd.*

This species, of which we previously possessed specimens presented by Lord Walsingham, although very similar in coloration to *P. ænothæ* of Europe, agrees better structurally with my recently described genus *Cinogon*, differing from the latter principally in its even less dentated wings and better developed anal tuft. If *Lepisesia victoria* be conspecific with *P. clarkie* the generic name ought certainly to be retained for this species. The name *Proserpinus* must be rejected altogether, as it is the original name of *P. ænothæ*; (which should therefore stand as *Pterogon* 'proserpina' of Pallas).

DEIDAMIA INSCRIPTA. *Harr.*

Seems, excepting in the form of secondaries, to be intermediate in structure between *Lophura continua* (of Brazil) and *Amphion nesus*: It also seems allied to *Mimas* and *Cypa*, two old world genera of *Smerinthinæ*. To which has it really most affinity?

ENYO LUGUBRIS. *Linn.*

The example sent by Mr. Edwards was taken at Indian River,

Florida, and agrees with examples of *E. camertus*, Cramer, in the Museum collection from Mexico. I am, however, quite prepared to believe that this red form is merely a common sport of the Linnean species.

AMPELOPHAGA VERSICOLOR. *Harris.*

I am very much interested in seeing this species for the first time; judging by Strecker's figure only, I referred it to *Elibia*, but (as he has himself declared) "the only point in common between" *E. dolichus* "and *versicolor* is the pale dorsal line," though strictly speaking, Strecker should have said the only salient point, since, to mention another point, they are both *Sphingidæ*.

Now, that I have examined and compared *versicolor* in the chitine, (I suppose I must not say "in the flesh") I find that it agrees in every detail of structure and nearly every detail of pattern with *Amphelophaga rubiginosa*, of Bremer, from China and Japan.

From *Otus chærilus* and *myron*, *Ampelophaga* is distinguished by its less falcated and less distinctly sinuous (the German word "geschwungen" best expresses the character) outer margin of the primaries, fuller secondaries, well defined dorsal line on the body and more curved banding of the primaries. I mention the color characters because they usually represent a sub-generic if not a generic value.

CHÆROCAMPA TERSA. *Linn.*

An example from Florida sent by Mr. Edwards comes nearest to specimens in the collection from Mexico.

DEILEPHILA LINEATA. *Linn.*

So far as I have hitherto been able to judge, this moth does not vary in anything but size, 66 to 100 millimetres in our examples.

PHILAMPELUS ACHEMON. *Drury.*

Mr. Edwards has sent us the pale variety of this beautiful species, and although I have no remarks to make about it, I may perhaps be permitted to speak of another New World *Sphingid*, recently referred by Dr. Burmeister to this genus.

Quite recently, through the generosity of Walter de Rothschild, (the eldest son of Sir Nathaniel) we acquired a specimen of the *P. Eos* of Burmeister from Buenos Ayres, and I am quite satisfied from a careful comparison of this species with the whole of our *Sphinges* that it is either an *Ambulyx* or a genus extremely close to it, and has no affinity to *Philampelus*.

SMERINTHUS OPHTHALMICUS. *Boisd.*

I am glad to find that I rightly identified this species in my "Revision of the Sphingidæ," although at the time I had very little doubt about it.

SPHINX CHERSIS, VAR. OREODAPHNE. *H. Edw.*

If this form is constant to any district, I see no reason why

it should not be regarded as a distinct species; it is not only considerably smaller than our examples of *S. chersis*, but the primaries are comparatively shorter and the coloration decidedly bluer in character.

SPHINX PERELEGANS. *H. Edw.*

Although nearly allied to *S. chersis*, this species (in the pattern and coloration of the secondaries) takes a step in the direction of *S. leucophæata*.

ANCERYX EDWARDSII, sp. n.

Allied to *A. fasciata* Swainson, and *A. alope* Drury; the primaries altogether blacker, more sericeous, the zigzag black lines more equally angulated between second median branch, and inner margin relieved by a white instead of a pale brown background, the central black line on the dorsal abdominal band less strongly defined than in *A. fasciata*, and therefore similar to that of *A. alope*. Expanse 81 millimetres.

Indian River, Florida. *H. Edw.*

Mr. Edwards sent a male example with note—"We have called this *Anceryx scyron*, but think we must be in error. Will you kindly tell me its real name,"—and as it does not belong to the *scyron* group (Genus *Isognathus* Felder) and moreover has not hitherto been named to my knowledge, I have taken the liberty of dedicating it to my excellent friend.

Isognathus scyron is a species occurring in Surinam, of which I have hitherto seen only one example, and that not in our collection; like my *I. metascyron* it has a red-brown abdomen banded with black.

Anceryx alope (unlike the species of *Isognathus*) has a brownish white body transversely banded with black, and dorsally banded with dark grey striped with black, the anal segment being of a reddish wood-brown color at the sides and black in the centre; the wings and thorax are pale red brown, but so widely suffused and striped with dull slatey grey and black that very little of the ground color appears, an oblique diffused streak across the median interspaces and cut by the zigzag *disca** lines whitey-brown (but not white); the secondaries are bright orange to a little beyond the middle, the remainder being dull black with the border very slightly greyish and a marginal series of intense black dashes, or in other words an interrupted black marginal line: from this form Swainson's *A. fasciata* is distinguished by its distinctly whiter body, paler primaries, which are often largely varied with the red or whity-brown of the ground colors. In *A. Edwardsii*, on the other hand, this reddish brown coloration is confined to the thorax and the fringe of the wings.

CAUTHETIA, sp.

"*Enosanda noctuiformis*, Walk" on label.

(Two examples) Indian River, Florida.

I hope Mr. Edwards will describe this pretty little species; it

* Guenee and others have wrongly used this term instead of "*discoidal*" in speaking of markings upon the wing-cell.

does not agree with Walker's type from St. Domingo, the primaries are considerably darker, and the dark brown border of the secondaries of only half the width: it must be distinct.

A PARASITE IN *ÆGERIA* SYRINGÆ. HARR.

BY G. H. FRENCH, Carbondale, Ill.

When examining the stems of some lilac bushes in my yard, I found a place in the bark of one where it seemed that an *Ægerian* pupa might soon protrude for the purpose of liberating the moth. Upon cutting away the thin film of bark, I found the end of a chrysalis visible. I carefully cut away the wood, took this out and put it in a jelly dish surrounded with lilac leaves to prevent its drying up, and waited for the imago to come forth. June 5th, a week after the chrysalis had been put into the jelly dish, I saw something among the leaves which I supposed was the expected moth, but which proved to be a hymenopter. I did not know but the insect might be one of the boring bees that often resort to the holes left by *Ægerians* in which to rear their young, but an examination of both the insect and the empty pupa case assured me that I had a parasite. The chrysalis was certainly that of an *Ægerian*, having all the characteristic marks of the pupæ of that family; and the insect in emerging from it had gnawed a hole near the end on the left side instead of the usual method of emergence of insects from their own pupa cases. More than this, the specimen was a true *Ichneumonide* and not a *Crabronide* as I at first thought it might be. This is the first time I have known of any parasite working in the *Ægerians*.

I make the parasite to be *Phæogenes Ater*, Cres. It is shining jet black, 40 of an inch long, the antennæ 25 jointed, the first 8 black, the next 4 white and the rest dark brown. The joints of the legs are a little pale.

It is impossible for me to say when the parasite was introduced into its host; but it must have been before it pupated, because the chrysalis when taken from the bush was entire, showing no broken place. That the *Ægerian* was *Æ. Syringæ*, I have no doubt, as I do not know of any other boring in the lilac.

LEPIDOPTEROLOGICAL NOTES.*

BY PROFESSOR C. V. RILEY.

PLUSIA BRASSICÆ, Riley (Rep. II. p. 111).—Notwithstanding its close resemblance to *ni*, the best authorities agree with Zeller in considering it distinct, as it certainly is. Strangely enough

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