

PSYCHE.

THE CHRYSALIS OF FENISECA TARQUINIUS.

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In Psyche for January, 1892 (Vol. vi) Dr. W. J. Holland gave a greatly enlarged figure of the chrysalis of *Spalgis s-signata* of West Africa to show the extraordinary likeness a slightly oblique aspect of the creature bore to a human or rather a simian face. This was the more curious because, as pointed out by him, a similar likeness had before been remarked in the chrysalis of our own *Feniseca tarquinius*, by Mr. Edwards and Miss Morton; and because in both cases the larva is aphidivorous — an exceedingly exceptional carnivorous habit for the caterpillars of butterflies. The original paper by Mr. Edwards, including Miss Morton's observations, will be found in the Canadian Entomologist for August, 1886 (vol. xviii). The simian resemblance has also been shown in an Indian Spalgis in the Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 8, pl. A.

In the early part of last August Lt. Wirt Robinson, U. S. A., sent me in alcohol from Hot Springs, Va., a chrysalis of *Feniseca* which he had found on the under side of a maple leaf and suggested that it would furnish an opportunity for a drawing which should show "the perfect resemblance which it bears to a face." I follow my friend's suggestion and show herewith

on the plate (3) opposite this page the result. The view, as will be seen, is dorsal and taken obliquely from in front and at one side, as this brings out best the characteristic features, and it is, moreover, nearly the same point of view as that used by Dr. Holland for *Spalgis*. The resemblance is not so striking nor so grotesque as there, nor is the expression so leering, but it can hardly be overlooked and is certainly extremely curious. A dorsal view of *Feniseca* also enlarged was given in the Entomological News for September, 1896 (vol. vii), but seems to be less satisfactory than a partially lateral view.

It may be added that Lt. Robinson found the larva feeding upon aphid colonies on the twigs of maple at Hot Springs, the species being doubtless *Pemphigus aceris* Monell. It has heretofore been found principally in the colonies of the alder plant-louse, *Schizoneura tessellata*, but also in those of *Pemphigus fraxinifolia* and *P. imbricator* of the ash and beach respectively. The larva has also been fed in captivity on aphides from other plants, and as it has been reported as occurring on still other plants may doubtless have a considerable range of aphid diet and probably be found anywhere on colonized plant lice.



Scudder, Samuel Hubbard. 1897. "The Chrysalis of Feniseca Tarquinius." *Psyche* 8, 123–123. <https://doi.org/10.1155/1897/27323>.

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