

ENTOMOLOGY.

A BUTTERFLY-CATCHING SPIDER.—Every one who is fond of flowers must frequently have noticed the pretty yellow or white spider with a red line down each side of the body which frequently lurks inside open flowers to seize the unwary fly, bee, or other insect, attracted by the nectar of the blossom. This spider known as *Misumena vatia* seems to have the power of changing its colour to some extent, for when found in a white Trillium it is nearly always white, but when in an Erythronium, the colour of the body is as yellow as that of the flower. It is seldom that an insect larger than a honey-bee is found in the fatal embrace of this insect; but Dr. Ami sent me in September two specimens of *Argynnis Atlantis*, a large, strong-winged butterfly expanding two and a half inches, which he found in the clutches of *Misumena vatia* at Hopewell, Nova Scotia. It is probable that these butterflies were in a somewhat weakened condition owing to the lateness of the season.

This interesting little spider belongs to the family of "Crab Spiders, (*Thomisidæ*), so called on account of the short broad form of the body and the curious fact that they can walk more readily sideways or backward than forward. The Crab spiders spin no webs, but lie in wait for their prey. They live chiefly on plants and fences and in the winter hide in cracks and under stones and bark. Most of the species are marked with gray and brown like the bark upon which they live. Some conceal themselves in flowers where they lie in wait for their prey. One of the best known members of this family is the insect under consideration, the female of *Misumena vatia* (Comstock.)—J. F.

SPHÆRIDIMUM SCARABÆOIDES.—This rare beetle has again been taken by me at Kingsmere, Que., this time in considerable numbers. Last season, when I took it for the first time, I sent a set to Dr. H. F. Wickham who is writing that

most invaluable series of articles on the Coleoptera of Ontario and Quebec for the Canadian Entomologist. In acknowledging receipt, he said :—" They are the first *native* specimens I have seen and form a very acceptable addition to my collection."

I shall be happy to supply, gratuitously, specimens of this beetle to any reader of the NATURALIST applying to me for the same, as long as my spare material lasts.—WILLIBERT SIMPSON.

NOTE.—Our Entomological readers will do well to accept Mr. Simpson's generous offer promptly. In the classification of the Coleoptera of North America by Drs. Leconte and Horn published in 1883, it is stated "a specimen of the European *Sphæridium scarabæoides* has been found in Canada. The species is undoubtedly introduced, and accidental in occurrence." It is probable that it is now well established, for in 1894 I received a specimen from Ste. Scholastique, Que., and on May 24th, 1895, in company with Mr. Harrington, I found it abundant at Casselman. Mr. Simpson now records it as in considerable numbers within ten miles of Ottawa. I have been so far unable to find it at Ottawa.—J. F.

EATON, LUCY C.—" *The Butterflies of Truro, N. S.*—Trans. Nova Scotian Inst. Science, Vol. IX, Part I, pp. XVII—XXI, 1896.

To this paper is appended additional notes on the same subject by Mr. Piers, pp. XIX—XXI, (*ibid*).—H. M. A.

BOTANY.

WAGHORNE, REV. A. C.—*The flora of Newfoundland, Labrador and St. Pierre et Miquelon* : Pt. II.

Part I. of this interesting contribution to our knowledge of the plants in Eastern British North America was published in the Trans. of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, 1893, Vol. I., p. 359, including the Polypetalæ as far as the Leguminosæ. Part



Fletcher, James. 1896. "Entomology Notes." *The Ottawa naturalist* 10(8), 151–152.

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