



THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S RECORD
AND ZOOLOGY
JOURNAL OF VARIATION

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| RICHARD S. BAGNALL, F.L.S., F.E.S. | T. A. CHAPMAN, M.D., F.Z.S., F.E.S. |
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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 15th, 1918.

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"BERTROSE," GELLATLY ROAD, NEW CROSS, S.E. 14

In one nest this was a very difficult business, the moment the nest was opened all the ants were in a ferment attempting to escape. In one or two others one could open the nest considerably, yet the ants made little attempt to escape, those that did so being individual wanderers, without any special object in view, and not a few ants retreating, even hurriedly, into the nest on finding there was an opening to the outer world.

Feeding them was often difficult, especially in winter, being kept in a temperature of say about 60° they did not in any sense actually hibernate, my procedure was guided by instructions given me by Mr. Donisthorpe, and I found my experience, so far as it went, precisely agreed with what he told me. Honey on a slip of glass was always more or less acceptable, and the slip was almost always used by the ants as a midden, though sometimes they would use an awkward corner of the nest for this purpose. I found that eggs were laid, in the few cases in which I had queens, and the larvæ fed up more rapidly when plenty of food was given, but at times they did not seem to accept, or use, the food given so fully as I expected, they certainly appeared to get tired of any diet and welcomed a change. Insect imagines seemed to please them best, they would hardly look at larvæ, nor on the few occasions I tried it did they touch meat. Earwigs they liked, but rapidly got tired of them. Diptera, especially *Tipulidae*, were most appreciated of anything I gave them; house-flies, like earwigs, were soon neglected. They would not touch the common yellow dung-fly. They all refused earthworms, though I have seen ants about a dead earthworm on paths, etc., but these ants were probably not *Myrmica*. Larvæ of other genera of ants, of which *umbratus* and *flava* were tried, were neither accepted as brood nor eaten, but rejected and placed on the midden.—T. A. CHAPMAN. *September, 1918.*

SOME SURREY COLEOPTERA.—Two specimens of *Mordella aculeata* were taken by me near Horsley, August, 1896, and June, 1897, one by sweeping the long grass in a plantation of young firs, and the other on the roadside herbage in one of the lanes. A specimen of *Agrius sinuatus* was swept up by me at Mickleham, in September, 1909, close to some very large hawthorns. These species are not mentioned in the "Victoria History of the County of Surrey," and should have been recorded before. Subsequent visits have not produced further specimens.

Among the Lady-Beetles* taken by me at Oxshott this year is a specimen of *Coccinella septempunctata*, the front angles of the pronotum, which are usually white, being of a bright red, quite unicolorous with the elytra; a remarkably pretty insect when alive. Another good thing from the same locality is a specimen of *Anatis ocellata*, which seems referable to ab. *hebraea* of Linnæus, who, however, described it as a separate species from *ocellata*. The spots are united into longitudinal streaks, partly abbreviated. There seems to be only one other British record of it—in 1895—though Weise in 1879 gives England

* This expression, "Lady-Beetle," which is used in the publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is far preferable to "Lady-Birds," and it would be well if its use became general.—W.J.A. [I must say I do not agree with Mr. Ashdown; "Lady-bird" being a much older and more preferable name.—H.D.]

as a locality. Specimens intermediate between this and the type are of frequent occurrence at Oxshott.

Many varieties of *Aphidecta* (*Adalia*) *obliterata* have been taken by me at Mickleham in the last 20 years, on larch (now mostly cut down), and on other trees. There are several with four and six spotted elytra. Also four specimens of a smoky colour with black legs, and a fine black aberration, which should perhaps receive names, as they do not agree with *ab. fumata*, Weise, and all the named aberrations seem to have pale legs. The black specimen has elytra entirely black, without markings, the suture and outer edge narrowly brown, thorax, without the usual M mark, legs also brown. The general facies of this beetle, the legs and antennæ, at once separate it from any of the black varieties of *C. hieroglyphica*, a large number of which are in my cabinet, and it could not possibly be mistaken for that species.

Mr. Donisthorpe has kindly inspected all the specimens referred to and confirms the identifications.—W. J. ASHDOWN, Leatherhead. *September 9th, 1918.*

WITHERSLACK.—I had intended to go to the south of England in August to work for varieties of *Agriades coridon*, but circumstances compelled me to take my short holiday earlier, and my brother and I decided to go to Witherslack for *Coenonympha tiphon*, which I had never taken in England. Finding that the local accommodation was already booked, we stayed very comfortably at Grange-over-Sands and bicycled the four miles or so backwards and forwards.

The afternoon of June 23rd found us on the Meathop Moss, and we worked the various mosses diligently for a week, during which time the sun hardly shone for ten consecutive minutes, while a strong wind was nearly always blowing. The males of *C. tiphon* were already past their best when we arrived, and it was difficult to get a really nice series, but the ♀s were just coming out and were in fine condition and great variety, but owing to the lack of sun they did not fly freely, and a lot of hard work was necessary to kick them up. It is rather curious that during a week's work and careful searching for the settled insect, only one couple was seen paired.

The working of a moss is not free from mild excitement, as it is an easy matter to step on heather and find that it overhangs a small patch of bog which will take you over the knee, and sometimes provide accommodation for both legs at once, and after four or five hours you have a distinct impression that any insects captured have been well earned. Swarms of *Ematurga atomaria* flew out of the heather, and occasionally a male, and more rarely a female *Diacrisia sannio* (*russula*) was taken. *Lasiocampa quercus* blundered about in its usual headlong fashion, and one *Macrothylacia rubi* was picked up. We did not pay much attention to the moths, but *Bupalus piniaria* was plentiful among the pine trees, and a few of the pretty little purple *Idaea muricata* were taken, and also *Anarta myrtilli*, and one freshly emerged *Geometra papilionaria* was picked up by my brother. Some parts of the Mosses were occupied by colonies of the Black Backed Gull, of which we found nests with clutches of 1, 2, 3, and in one case 4 eggs, and also young in down, and on the Ulpha Moss they were so numerous and so noisy that it was quite a relief to get away from them. Curlews were also flying round, and we put up a few grouse.