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EDITED BY

RICHARD S. BAGNALL, F.I.S., F.E.S.
GEORGE T. BETHUNE-BAKER, F.I.S., F.E.S.
M. BURR, D.Sc., F.I.S., F.Z.S., F.E.S.
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Editorial Secretary.

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of sand wasps, which provision their cells with lepidopterous larvae, or watching the graceful flight of that weird, predatory, and ferocious Neuropteran *Ascalaphus italicus*, whose captures seemed chiefly to consist of *Erebia tyndarus*. Of dragonflies only five species were captured, all in the valley; *Sympetrum scoticum* and *S. flareolum* in some numbers, *S. striolatum* not commonly, *Aeschna cyanea* commonly, and a single specimen of a species of *Lestes*, too faded to identify. That Névache is a fine hunting ground for the student of any branch of entomology and a paradise for the botanist we are convinced, and for those who wish to escape for a time from the exacting duties of life in a large town, no better spot could be found wherein to pass a few weeks in peaceful seclusion.

(To be continued.)

NOTES ON COLLECTING, etc.

A NOTE ON *CIONUS WOODI*, DONIS.—In the *Ent. Mo. Mag.* (1924, LIX., p. 34), Mr. Champion, when discussing the above named species, described by me in 1921, the types (♂ and ♀) of which are in the collection of the late Canon T. Wood, writes as follows:—"These insects, in my opinion, are undoubtedly a form of *C. scrophulariae*, L.," and further, "*Cionus woodi*, Don., must therefore be treated as a variety of *C. scrophulariae*, L." Mr. Champion is of course entitled to his opinion in the matter, but the following points appear to me to call for some comment.

1. The abbreviation for my name should be Donis., "Don." has always stood for Donovan.

2. It would perhaps have been treating me with greater fairness had mention been made of the fact that before describing these insects they were first sent to Major Sainte Claire Deville (who declared them to be quite unknown to him and undoubtedly new); and also submitted to Dr. G. K. Marshall, F.R.S., who makes a special study of the *Curculionidae*. The latter gentleman likewise expressed his entire agreement with the view that the species was new to science, and kindly helped me to work it out with Wingelmüller's table on the genus *Cionus*. He also read through and approved of my MS. description.

3. The point, however, which strikes me most of all, is this—the late Canon Wood's collection of British Coleoptera has only recently been presented to the British Museum (Natural History). In that establishment the Coleopterists are of long standing, merit, and recognised ability. Yet, almost before the insects in the collection in question can have been registered and arranged, a third party steps in and decides what certain insects shall be called, and publishes his views on the subject; thus greatly reducing their value. Is the staff of the Museum incapable of dealing with a collection of beetles placed in their care?—HORACE DONISTHORPE.

THE CANNIBAL COCCINELLID.—Those of us who have at any time bred *Coccinellidae* know from experience, the reprehensible habits of this species to cannibalism in their early larval days and Mrs. O. A. Merritt Hawkes, M.Sc. (Birm.), B.Sc. (Lond.), has given us her experiences of this painful trait in a racy article in a recent number of "*Conquest*" (August, 1923). I was not however aware till last year that these

unpleasant habits were continued after reaching years of discretion, or, in other words, after emergence from the pupa stage. It so happened however, that in the course of last year on two several occasions I had placed in separate boxes two Coccinellids (*A. 2-punctata*, L.), while still in the yellowish-white dress of emergence, to await the development of the elytral markings. By some accident I forgot to attend to these boxes for some time, and on opening them I found in one case, one Coccinellid had entirely eaten out his neighbour, leaving only thorax and elytra picked as clean as if they had been eaten out by ants, while in the other case, the stronger had attacked and was eating away the head of the weaker, who, when released, was able to stagger about till I put it out of its misery. I also observed on two occasions larvae attacking pupa, so that so far as this species is concerned, it is prepared to eat its brother Coccinellid at any stage.—G. C. LEMAN, F.E.S.

HABITS OF LYCIA HIRTARIA.—Sluggish habits of *Lycia (Biston) hirtaria*, have often been noted. The following may be of interest:—At West Dulwich on Monday, April 24th, 1922, at 10.30 a.m., a ♀ *hirtaria* was noticed about 5 feet up on the North East side of a lime tree, the wind was North West and cold, from Tuesday to Saturday it remained in exactly the same spot. On Sunday, April 30th, at 11 a.m., it was noticed to be *in cop.* At 6.30 p.m., they were separated, the ♀ being in the same spot, the ♂ about 3 inches away. On Monday, May 1st, at 11.30, the ♀ was again *in cop.*, the (?) other male being in the same place 3 inches distant.

On Tuesday the ♀ was alone but on Wednesday at 12.30 it was still at same spot with one male three inches away and 3 other females a foot or more below it on the South side of the tree. On Thursday, 12.30 noon, the ♀ was still apparently on the same spot, but on Friday, May 5th, it had gone.—G. S. ROBERTSON (M.D.), 72, Thurlow Park Road, Dulwich, S.E.

THE SEASON IN SOUTH HANTS.—The terrible sequence of bitterly cold east winds has not given us much chance to go hunting, but still we have been out. I have been collecting larvae of *Thera variata* (I hope the real *variata*) from spruce, and *T. obeliscata* (presumably) from Scot's pine, but I can find no point of difference in the larvae—in fact, I cannot be quite sure what I have got. *Hylaea (Ellopia) prosapiaria* larvae are very rare this year. *Malenydris multistrigaria* is well out and *Polyplocia flavicornis* has been almost abundant. *Panolis piniperda* is also out but I am afraid there is no *Apocheima hispidaria* again this year. We have managed to find a few mines of *Aegeria (Sesia) sphegiformis*, but they are not common. During the short warm spell of S.W. winds, quite a lot of insects emerged indoors. I got plenty of *Aegeria culiciformis* out (forced), some *Asphalia ridens*, one *Drymonia chaonia*, one *Pygaera curtula*, two *P. piniperda*, *Eupithecia abbreviata*, *Pygaera pigra* and *Hemerophila abruptaria*. I wonder what sort of a season is in store for us. It can hardly be worse than the last one. So far, I have not seen *Brepheos parthenias* nor heard of it, yet there are plovers' eggs about and the woodcock are sitting already.—WM. FASSNIDGE, Southampton. April 4th.