

Hyblaea puera Fabr.

From a specimen shown me by Mr. Neumoegen as Mr. Strecker's new genus *Aenigma*, with its "very large number of subcostal nervules," I infer that Mr. Strecker has re-described this Fabrician genus and species, which latter is variable and enjoys a wide geographical range. It is also very probable that Mr. Strecker's new "*Cosmia*" from Florida, described in Proc. A. N. S. Phil., is the typical southern ♀ form of the Bombycid, *Hyarpax aurora*.

Botis dapalis, n. s.

Fore wings with dusky gray median space ; the rest of the wing brownish. An arcuate dark brown anterior line ; posterior line similarly colored, sinuate, followed by a vivid white shade at costa. A brown dot in the place of the orbicular ; a small black streak in the place of the reniform. Terminal space gray. A black dotted line followed by a gray line before the brownish fringes. Hind wings crimson red with a black extra discal mark, the fragment of an extra mesial line. Edge of the wing and internal margin black shaded. Fringes silky, long, brownish, tipped with reddish. Beneath fore wings red with the discal marks repeated and the exterior line, followed by the white costal shade, repeated. Hind wings yellow, shaded with red, with a red discal dot and extra mesial jagged line ; a subterminal line marked at costa. Fringes brownish, long, silky, stained with red. Body parts dark brown, paler, reddish beneath ; palpi reddish at the sides. *Expanse* 18 mil. California, Mr. Hy. Edwards, No. 3,023. A very distinct species belonging to the *subsequialis* group.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONCERNING CHRYSOPHANUS NAIS, EDW.

DEAR SIR,—

This species was described from defective and scanty material, brought in from Arizona. As it has recently been taken in numbers in So. Colorado and New Mexico by Mr. B. Neumoegen and others, we are able to see that it belongs to the Erycinidæ, and its habits are reported to be like those of *Lemonias Virgulti* and allies. I enclosed a pair to Mr. A. G. Butler, British Museum, and he replies 22nd Nov. : "I do not wonder at your describing the little butterfly as a *Chrysophanus* ; it was a most

natural mistake considering that the coloring and pattern are quite like that genus, and quite unlike the members of the genus to which it appears to belong. In structure it agrees best with *Apodemia* (I might say it agrees altogether), but the pattern of the under surface is not like any member of that genus known to me, being more like the arrangement found in *Echenais*. If color therefore can be called a structural character, the species belongs to no known genus, but as I do not consider this to be the case, I should certainly refer it to *Apodemia*."

Coalburgh, W. Va., Dec. 9, 1880.

W. H. EDWARDS.

ON HYPHANTRIA TEXTOR.

DEAR SIR,—

Hyphantria textor (Harris) made its appearance in this locality on May 10th, and from that date to the 13th I captured 53 ♂ examples and 10 ♀.

On June 17th the second brood appeared, and in three days I took 41 ♂ and 10 ♀.

Unfortunately, at the time of the appearance of the third brood, it commenced raining, and for two weeks, almost every day or evening, we had heavy showers, nearly exterminating lepidoptera.

In the first brood every male had the black spots on the primaries, from a single spot on each wing to almost covered, and in some examples a spot on the secondaries. In the second brood all were white, not an example with the least trace of a mark, the females in both broods entirely white. I anxiously waited for the third brood, but for reasons above, did not see a single specimen. My object was this:—Has the first brood or that which remains over winter only, the black spots? or does *H. textor* alternate? Will some of your readers please answer the above questions through your valuable journal.

August 3rd, 1880.

JAMES S. JOHNSON, Frankford, Penn'a.

DEAR SIR,—

In connection with Mr. Fletcher's interesting article on *Calosoma*, I send you my experience of *scrutator*. On 11th June I left Hamilton for Long Point. I had half a day to spend at Port Dover before the boat left. About noon a strong breeze sprung up from the S. W., which drove the waves up the shore. I took a stroll along the beach, and had not gone far when I saw a greenback just landed, making rapid strides with

his long legs away from the water, and I seized my first living *scrutator*. I took several of them that afternoon alive, some of them simply that and nothing more. At Long Point the evidence of what had been was unmistakable; the water lines of various storms of different forces were marked with bands of green wing-covers. I was too late for the harvest, very few coming ashore while I was there. When sugaring for moths we took from 2 to 5 every night, and one night 16. A large gauze-winged fly was attracted in great numbers to the sugar, and the *scrutator* was attracted by them, for in almost every instance we took them with one of these in their jaws. When seized they would drench the fingers with an acrid fluid of the most offensive odor; it was very volatile, drying rapidly with a sensation like alcohol. In one instance I took one from under a board on the beach, and in blowing off the sand that adhered to it some of the fluid struck my lip; it burned for an instant sharply. The odor from them leaves in a very short time. Does it not seem strange they should remain so scarce in the country when they are landed in such numbers on our shores alive? A friend, Mr. A. H. Kilman, of Ridgeway, writes me that they came ashore this spring after a south-west storm in hundreds, dead and alive. And we may suppose it to be about the same along the whole north shore of Lake Erie, and yet I know of but three taken in the neighborhood of Hamilton in 20 years.

J. ALSTON MOFFAT.

Hamilton, Ont., July 9th, 1880.

ARBOREAL AUSCULTATION.

DEAR SIR,—

Some time ago, while visiting the Dean and Williams Gold Mine, in the township of Marmora, I was interested in observing the proceedings of some woodpeckers which resorted to some half-dead pine trees in front of my room window. I remarked that after alighting they would run upwards in a zigzag way, stopping occasionally, and applying the side of their heads to the tree, evidently listening for the noise made by a grub while gnawing the wood. Suddenly a bird would begin to dig into the bark, the rapid strokes of its powerful bill making the chips fly faster than a lumberman's axe. On one occasion, by the aid of an opera-glass, I saw one fellow transfer something large and white from the cavity he had excavated to the interior of his craw, but the quickness of the action prevented me from ascertaining precisely what it was.

Thinking of this, it has occurred to me that the presence of a

“borer” in a fruit or other tree might be ascertained in the same manner by the use of a tube of wood or tin-plate formed like a stethoscope or ear-trumpet; by applying the wide end to the tree and the small end to the ear, the exact locality of the grub could be determined, when the application of a stout brad-awl or small gimlet would put an end at once to his life and his depredations without material injury to the tree.

JAMES T. BELL.

NOTE ON *CHRYSOMELA JUNCTA*, *C. 10-LINEATA* AND *CARYOBORUS*
ARTHRICTICUS.

DEAR SIR,—

During last Aug. and Sept. *Chrysomela juncta* has been more abundant than I have ever before seen it in this vicinity, and with larvæ was feeding on the leaves of *Solanum carolinense*, in company with *Chrysomela 10-lineata* and larvæ. The larva of *juncta* differs from *10-lineata* in being stouter and with the head larger. The color is dirty white. They are readily distinguishable apart. I took in the sexual act a male of *juncta* and female of *10-lineata*, and Mr. Siewers, of Newport, also observed the two species in intercourse. In the neighboring potato fields were thousands of *10-lineata*, but no *juncta*. Specimens killed in cyanide and pinned immediately after death all turned black in drying; to get a few good specimens I flexed the abdomen down, cut an incision along the top and removed the soft parts, put in a small quantity of arsenic and filled the cavity with cotton—getting as a result bright and beautiful specimens.

A friend in Fla. writes, saying: “I send a box of seed of the ‘Cabbage’ tree. I gathered them and put them away, and when I opened the box I found a bug in every seed. What are they?” The seeds, about 100, are of the *Sabal* palmetto; out of the entire lot only two or three did not contain a beetle, *Caryoborus arthriticus* Fab. The entire inside portion of the seed being eaten out and the insect filling the cavity, a round cap had been formed—by the larva, perhaps, cutting a ring through to the external skin of the seed on the inside, leaving it so that a push would burst it outward. The cap was in many cases burst off, and in all cases the insect was presented towards the opening tail foremost; all were dead. Is this one of the uses of the powerful posterior legs of this species, to burst the skin of the seed and thus get out?

CHAS. DURY, Avondale, Ham. Co., O.