

insect, when it dropped to the floor as if shot and never moved a wing. The result is not in all cases quite so rapid, but it is never tedious. By this means I prevent the mischief that ensues when a fine specimen flutters in a bottle of cyanide or chloroform for several minutes, as is often the case.

I employ the same plan with all insects, and with equal success. The moths that so long resisted the cyanide vapor, as mentioned above, at once yielded to the deadly gasoline, and in five minutes not a living larva was left in the case.

I need scarcely add that the use of this exceedingly volatile liquid never in the least degree injures the delicate plumage of the Lepidoptera. Many of my best specimens have been repeatedly drenched with gasoline. In five or ten minutes they are as dry as before it was applied.

Let me add one word more. I find the most convenient way of applying the gasoline is to carry it in an ounce phial, having a cork through which passes a finely pointed glass tube. The large outer end of this tube is capped with a small india-rubber capsule. The whole may be bought at a drug store for a few cents, under the name of a dropping tube. In this way the tube is always full of liquid ready to be squirted out on an insect in the net or even at rest in the open air, and the specimen is at once fit to be pinned out. This I do on the spot in a cigar box, or in one lined with cork, and so avoid an accumulation of material, which is a great annoyance to a man whose time is otherwise occupied, or indeed to any one at the end of a hard day's work.

The small weight of the outfit here required is an advantage not to be overlooked when compared with the weight of the loaded cyanide bottle usually employed. There are one or two other points which I should like to mention, but having already written more than at the outset I intended, I will forbear.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRACHYS AEROSA AND BRACHYS OVATA.

Dear Sir: I notice Dr. Packard, in his "Bulletin No. 7," on "Insects Injurious to Forest and Shade Trees," speaks of *Brachys aerosa* M., as probably mining the leaves of our oaks in its larval state, but says

that its life history is not known. I am not aware that the habits of this beautiful little Buprestid have since been published, and as I have reared two fully developed specimens from the larvæ, I think it may be of interest to the readers of the ENTOMOLOGIST to know the life history so far as I have been able to determine it.

Last Oct., while collecting leaf-miners from not less than twenty different trees and shrubs at the Michigan Agricultural College, I took two poplar leaves from which I got, to-day, the two beetles above mentioned. The following is the description of one of the larvæ made at the time they were taken :

Mining the leaves of our common poplar next to the upper surface. A whitish larva 9 m.m. long, broadest at head and gradually tapering to the tail. Jaws brown and first joint back of head with brown rectangular plates above and below. The anal end with a small black spine extending back which is used by the larva in pushing itself forward. Larva quite flat and segments deeply notched.

B. ovata Web.—A leaf of either the red or black oak containing a leaf-miner was taken at the same time, and from this I got *B. ovata* less than a week ago. No description of the larva was made.

C. P. GILLETTE.

Michigan Agricultural College, May 7th, 1887.

BOOK NOTICES.

RHOPALOCERA MALAYANA : A Description of the Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula. By W. L. Distant. London, 1882-86, 4°, 16 ; 486 p., 46 plates.

A short time ago we called attention to a work in progress on the Butterflies of India. Immediately thereafter there came to hand the final part of another notable work on the butterflies of a region still nearer our antipodes—the Malay Peninsula. In this instance the work was undertaken by the author under peculiarly favorable circumstances, inasmuch as all pecuniary anxiety was removed by the appearance of a Maecenas in the person of Mr. D. Logan, of Penang, to whom all credit is due by naturalists the world over, not only for the generous way in which he has allowed the work to be gotten up and illustrated, but for his excellent choice of an author. For Mr. Distant, on his side, has performed his task