

against it, and, for the time being, apparently extinguished the last feeble ray that flickered around Fulgora; but it was not quite extinguished, and has, I am rejoiced to observe, once more burst out in all its former brilliancy. My friend Mr. Evans, of the Admiralty, had, fortunately, a son resident at Honduras, and to him he applied for information on the subject. The insect does not appear to have been very common in the locality where Mr. Evans resided, but he replies, "At length I have obtained the insect, and it is decidedly luminous." Such is the reply of the son of a well-known Entomologist, one who has a perfect knowledge of the insect, and one who does not mistake Pyrophorus for Fulgora later-naria.—*Frederick Smith.*

227. *No Wasps at Bournemouth in 1865.*—There are no wasps here. Last year I passed the month of August here at Bournemouth, and so numerous were wasps in this locality that I concluded it was one of the most prolific spots for those insects that I had become acquainted with; the commons in the neighbourhood, the woods and cliffs, were alive with them. This year I have not, during the entire month, seen a single wasp.—*Id.*

228. *British Species of Ants at Bournemouth.*—Last year, on my return to town, I discovered, amongst a host of unexamined specimens of Formicidæ, a few examples of the *Formica exsecta* of Nylander: the following are my subsequent observations on that insect. *Formica exsecta* is very abundant at and in the neighbourhood of Bournemouth: it belongs to the section of building ants: its nest is usually composed of bits of dried grass, straws, small portions of twigs, &c; its nests never attain the dimensions of those of *F. rufa*, seldom exceeding a foot in diameter at the base. Nests are found in open spaces in fir woods, occasionally at road-sides, amongst bushes of heath or furze, and also, at times, on exposed open heaths: when a nest is disturbed the ants attack furiously; their courage and pertinacity are admirable; their file is sharp, and their hold-on most determined, so much so that, on endeavouring to remove them, the head frequently remains clinging to the hand when torn from the body. August is too late a period of the year to obtain the males and females; neither could I, by the most assiduous search, find a single example of either of those sexes: in Finland, Dr.

Nylander finds the males and females during the month of July; so that, making an allowance for difference of latitude, we may safely conclude, I imagine, that the latter end of May or during the month of June would be the season for those sexes; in fact their appearance would be simultaneous with those of our common wood-ant (*Formica rufa*). At Bournemouth, *F. congerens* takes the place of *F. rufa*: I did not observe a single nest of the latter ant: these species very closely resemble each other, the workers being difficult to separate, but the males and females are readily distinguished: a few females still occasionally appeared during the month of August, and these are at once known from the same sex of *F. rufa* by their abdomen being opaque black, that part of the body being highly polished and shining in *F. rufa*. *F. aliena* of Foerster is also found here, and by no means uncommonly: this species belongs to the burrowing section of ants: it constructs subterranean galleries, and excavated roads or tunnels, branching off from the nest in all directions; these tunnels have numerous outlets, from whence the ants are to be seen constantly issuing, running with great rapidity from one outlet to another. This ant closely resembles the common garden ant (*F. nigra*), but it is very distinct; its habit is different; it is smaller, runs with much greater velocity, and differs in other particulars from the more generally distributed *F. nigra*. *F. aliena* is not uncommon on the sand hills at Deal, on the cliffs at Bournemouth, and, I apprehend, on most of the large commons throughout Hampshire, Kent and Surrey. *F. cunicularia* is very plentiful here, as are also *F. fusca*, *F. umbrata* and *F. flava*; but I have not detected either *F. rufa*, *F. sanguinea* or *F. fuliginosa*. *Tapinona erratica* is very common; it is found in small communities on bare spots on open commons: these spots it appears to prefer, particularly those situations where the turf has been recently cut: it is a burrowing ant, very active, but, as far as I observed its habit, makes no attack when its communities are disturbed. Of Myrmicidæ, only the commoner species have yet been detected; but I may observe upon the immense number of nests that are to be found of *Leptothorax Acervorum*: this minute ant is found in every situation,—in the woods, in stumps of felled fir trees, in banks, on the cliffs, on open commons, in fact in all conceivable situations:

it is not usually an abundant insect, but, according to my experience, usually much more prevalent in situations on the coast.—*Frederick Smith*.

229. *Hampshire a good Collecting County*.—Hampshire is a famous county for an Entomologist, and this neighbourhood most favourable: there are more butterflies here than I ever remember to have seen in any other locality; *Colias Edusa* is by no means scarce about Christchurch, and the dry, sandy spots swarm with fossorials: *Pompili* and *Crabronidæ* abound, whilst the heath-loving bees are plentiful on their beautiful flowers. Of the Coleoptera of this district I know little or nothing: August is not the time for them, but one cannot roam over the surrounding heaths without being observant of the hosts of *Cicindela campestris*, *C. maritima* and *C. sylvatica*.—*Id.*

230. *Acherontia Atropos bred: barren Females*.—I told you some time ago that I had three larvæ of *Acherontia Atropos* brought me in July: all three came out on the 16th of September, one male and two females, and I never saw finer specimens: both the females were barren, the abdomens containing nothing but fatty matter, just like those of males.—*Henry Doubleday, in a Letter to E. Newman*.

231. *Successive Larvæ of Pyrameis Cardui*.—I am in a fix at present about the economy of this species: there are small and nearly full-grown larvæ feeding together now; in fact only yesterday one spun up, and another, a very small one, changed its skin. Whether these late larvæ are produced by the early imagos of this year, or the late ones of last year, I am unable to determine. I believe all will produce the perfect insect this autumn.—*J. Pisto; Alverstoke, Whippingham, Isle of Wight, September 20, 1865*.

232. *Catocala Fraxini in the Isle of Wight*.—A friend of mine, near here, took a specimen of this fine insect at rest on his house, on the 15th of August last. It measures very nearly four inches across the wings. We believe this to be only the second Isle of Wight specimen.—*Id.*

233. *Hybernation of Colias Edusa*.—I am certain that some of these live through the winter in the perfect state. I remarked on one occasion, when this species was very abundant here, that I took all females in clover fields, and all males in stubble, which I accounted for by supposing the