

*Abraxas grossulariata* var. *varleyata* at Huddersfield.—This magnificent form which was first bred at Huddersfield by the late Mr. James Varley, so long ago as 1864, has not been much seen or heard of for a good many years. Last season, however, a working man collected a large quantity of larvæ from old gardens, and was fortunate enough to breed eleven examples of it. This year the same man, and a friend of his, have bred respectively four and fifteen, making thirty specimens for the two seasons. The man who bred the fifteen told me they were the produce of some 4000 pupæ, the immense majority of moths from which were of course quite ordinary, though besides the *varleyata* there were some other very beautiful and remarkable forms. I may add that a number of the *varleyata* have found their way into my own cabinet, and one of them is more nearly a black specimen than any I have ever seen, as the white streak near the base is exceptionally narrow, and does *not* extend through the wings as is usual in the variety.—GEO. T. PORRITT, Edgerton, Huddersfield: *August 4th*, 1905.

*Dichrorampha flavidorsana*, Knaggs, = *D. questionana*, Zeller, at Folkestone.—On the evening of the 28th July, whilst being wheeled round my garden, I observed a number of little Tortrices flying over a clump of Tansy, and, on securing some of them, identified them as my *D. flavidorsana*, a decision in which Mr. Purday subsequently agreed. I believe that this once overlooked species will prove to be an abundant insect, and also probably widely distributed.—H. G. KNAGGS, Folkestone: *August*, 1905.

*Curious dates of emergence*.—In August, 1904, I collected at La Granja (Spain) a few larvæ which were common on a beautiful species of *Linaria* growing at some elevation in the woods there. These had a very *Cucullia*-like aspect, and are very close to the figures of *C. casta*, Borkh. These duly produced moths that are not *Calophasia platyptera*, Esp., but are very close to, if not identical with, *C. hamifera*, Stgr., and are probably a local race of that species. The interesting point, however, is, that four specimens emerged a few weeks after I got home, some six or eight in May and June, 1905, when three remaining pupæ looked quite undeveloped, and prepared to remain longer as pupæ. Of these three, however, two have just emerged, August 12th and 13th, 1905. The third is alive and well, but evidently contemplates spending some further indefinite time as a pupa, probably till May or June, 1906. What seems curious is, that with delayed emergences like this, there should be in both the first and second year an attempt to produce a second brood or emergence, the progeny of which would certainly at La Granja not succeed in reaching full larval growth before winter set in, the insect being one that hibernates as a pupa, and is probably quite incapable of passing the winter as a larva. I have placed specimens in the Natural History Museum,—T. A. CHAPMAN, Betula, Reigate: *August 14th*, 1905.

*Formica fusca*, race *gagates*, in the New Forest.—When collecting in the New Forest this July, a friend called my attention to a peculiarly shaped ants' nest in Matley Bog. In the part in which it was situated the ground was covered with

tussock grass, each tussock forming a little hillock from one to two feet high, the ground between and below the tussocks being wet and mossy. On the top of one of these tussocks was a nest, in the shape of a cone, composed of very small bits of dried grass. It was about 9 inches high, and 4—5 inches wide at the base, the whole supported by the blades of tussock grass on the sides, while some of the blades sprang out from the top, forming a sort of pillar in the middle of the nest.

The ants looked like ordinary *Formica fusca*, but were slightly smaller and much more shining.

Mr. Saunders, to whom I submitted them, considers them to belong to the race *gagates* of *F. fusca*. I think it is probable that the peculiar shape of the nest may have been due to the nature of the surroundings, as the ants could not build except on the tops of the hillocks, and in wet weather these would form so many islands in a miniature lake.—G. ARNOLD, Royal College of Science, South Kensington: August, 1905.

[This form of *Formica fusca* is an interesting one, as it is certainly rare in Britain; it is identical with the form which I considered to belong to the race *gagates* in my "*Hymenoptera Aculeata*," and which the Rev. W. Farren White described as a new species under the name *glabra* in "Ants and their Ways." I sent two of Mr. Arnold's specimens to Prof. Forel for his opinion, and he returns them as *F. fusca* race *gagates* "une peu fuscoïde."—E. SAUNDERS.]

*Hymenoptera and Hemiptera in the Mendips.*—From June 22nd to July 13th I collected at Glastonbury and Winscombe. The weather was brilliant and everything seemed to be in a mood which one would have thought most attractive to the Aculeate *Hymenoptera*; but although I was constantly searching the most favourable localities I found practically nothing worth recording. A single *Agénia variegata* ♂, *Crabro capitosus* 1 ♀, 2 *Passalæcus monilicornis*, a few *Odynerus melanocephalus*, and 1 *Stelis aterrima* were the only species not actually common. Not only were the number of species few, but even individuals of common ones were scarce. On one occasion, about noon of the 5th July, I searched a bank facing nearly due south, unusually gay with flowering plants such as ought to attract any respectable bee, amongst them being the following: *Ranunculus*, *Helianthemum*, *Hypericum*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Lotus*, *Potentilla*, *Agrimonia*, *Heraclæum*, *Daucus*, *Galium verum*, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, *Achillea*, *Senecio*, *Centaurea*, *Hypochæris*, *Crepis*, *Lapsana*, and *Prunella*, all in abundance; notwithstanding this combination of flowers, a few *Bombus agrorum* ♂, *Apis*, and one *Halictus leucozonius* ♀, were the only visible *Aculeates*.

No doubt the nature of the soil (limestone) is unfavourable to *Hymenoptera*, but I do not remember a similar experience anywhere.

*Hemiptera* were represented by one or two better species, *Macrocoleus hortulanus* and *Asciodema fieberi* being the best, the former common on *Helianthemum* flowers and the latter rather rare on *Ulmus montanus*. *Heterocordylus unicolor* swarmed on *Genista tinctoria* in several localities.—EDWARD SAUNDERS, St. Ann's, Woking: August 1st, 1905.