

NOTE ON HABIT OF LARVA OF *P. ATALANTA*.

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In C. ENT., 14, p. 223, I stated that Newman, in Nat. Hist. Br. But., described the mature larva as pupating in a case specially prepared for the purpose on the plant it had been feeding on: "from the roof of this the caterpillar suspends itself and becomes a chrysalis." Also quoted from Harris, who says the larva "seeks a suitable place in which to undergo its transformations." In the conclusion of the paper, vol. 15, p. 19, I said that I had never found a case with pupa in it, though I had often taken cases with the larvae in earlier stages, and I ventured the conjecture that both Harris and Newman were right, but that in our climate the larva pupated differently from its habit in England.

On 24th July last, I received from Mr. Philip Laurent, of Philadelphia, about a dozen cases of *Atalanta*, each made of a single nettle leaf and containing a pupa suspended from the top. Mr. Laurent wrote that in 1882 this butterfly was very common, and that in a short time, on one occasion, he found 125 pupae in leaf cases; and that as far as observed, the larva selects a large leaf for its last case, in which it transforms; that as a rule it makes its last meal out of the outer end of the case, eating about an inch thereof; that he has however taken many that were not eaten at all; has also seen several in which pieces were eaten out of the side of the leaf.

I am glad to have this positive evidence; my opinion was based on the fact of never having found such a case, together with the testimony of Dr. Harris, as I understood it. But it is probable that I was wholly mistaken, and that the American habit of the species is like that in England. *Atalanta* was abundant here in 1881, but I have seen few individuals since. Just so *P. Cardui* was the most common butterfly here all through the season of 1884, and this year I have not seen one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir: While out for an ornithological ramble here on Cote des Neiges Mountain this afternoon, I observed a large number of *Danais archippus* congregated together; numbers were clustered on dead branches of trees and underbrush, also on ferns. I could easily have caught a