

as to furnish me with the following particulars relative to the capture of this new species, and in which it will be seen that he seems now inclined to doubt the parasitic connexion between the *Elenchus* and *Bombus*, and which he had formerly supposed to exist.

“ Around my pavilion at Black-river, in the Mauritius, are stationed some large Tamarind and Bois de Napp trees, (*another* of the Leguminosæ, but I do not know what genus or species;) and the long grass about their roots, quite shaded from the extreme heat of the sun, concealed the little insects in question. I never could find them elsewhere, though I carefully examined under the trees on the hill and the thick jungle on the opposite side of the river. I began latterly to think that it was most probably their *locale*, from the wasps (*Polistes*?) being alone found in any numbers about the house; the yellow one building busily, last November, its papyritious habitation and the other (black, with a long abdominal peduncle) its clay mansion wherever it was permitted to remain unmolested. At any rate my supposition stated in a note in Curtis’s ‘British Entomology’, fol. 433, becomes completely untenable, that it is parasitic on the *Bombus*, as there are none in the island. I found a good number of the *Elenchus*, but my net mutilated them so much that those you have are the only ones which escaped tolerably. I examined a vast number of the yellow wasps, but could never find any of the rings with appearances of any irregularity about them; perhaps it was the wrong season.”

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### XXXVII. Remarks on the Destruction of Cocci.

By A. INGPEN, Esq., A.L.S., &c.

[Read April 6, 1835.]

I BEG to exhibit a cutting of a golden pippin apple-tree, put into my hand by my worthy friend Mr. Anderson, Curator of the Physic Garden at Chelsea, which is much infested with the *Coccus arborum linearis*, Geoff. ? The tree from which it was taken is trained against a west-aspected wall, and every branch is similarly covered. The injuries which the *Cocci* do to vegetation are very great, not only in green- and hot-houses, but also, which is of more importance, to the out-door fruits. The apple, pear, plum, peach, apricot, &c., suffer alike from their destructive attacks. The effects of their ravages

on fruit-trees appear to be that, by absorbing the sap the growth of the trees is retarded, the fruit loses both size and flavour, and the crop decreases.

In consequence of the female *Coccus* adhering close to the bark it is extremely difficult to eradicate, and I am not aware of any method of getting rid of it in this state short of scraping it off the branches. This mode however would be extremely tedious and at the same time endanger the life of the tree. There are various remedies in use, such as washing the trees with tobacco water, soft soap and water, and lime water, all destructive of insect life; but in a matter of this nature economy is of importance. Vegetable solutions are not injurious to vegetable life, but mineral washes are no doubt dangerous. Lime water however is an exception, and combines three important qualities. It is perfectly harmless to vegetation, it is cheap, and at the same time destructive to insects. I should recommend two or three applications in the spring, at intervals of one or two weeks, of strong lime water with a brush, and a dusting of quicklime before the branches get dry; or a washing of soft soap and water, using also the powdered lime. For plants in the green- and hot-house a solution of bitter aloes is said not only to destroy the insect, but to prevent its future appearance on the plant washed with it.

I think the causes of failure in getting rid of this pest have arisen from the application of remedies at improper seasons, that is, when the female has become fixed to the plants. I would suggest that the remedies be applied when the young larvæ make their appearance. In this state they are locomotive and may be easily detected with a pocket magnifier. If therefore at this period any of the above remedies were applied two or three times in the manner before suggested, I have little doubt of a successful result.

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XXXVIII. *Observations on Haliplus ferrugineus of Authors, being an attempt at its Subdivision into several Species.*  
By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

[Read May 4, 1835.]

My attention having been drawn to the different appearance presented by insects placed in our cabinets under the name of *Haliplus ferrugineus*, I determined upon subjecting them to a careful examina-