
REMARKS, CRITICAL AND SUGGESTIVE, ON THE GENUS
LIMENITIS EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

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Demonstrations from examples taken by me during the past three years, and from examples taken in Farmington, Conn., twenty years ago, give indubitable evidence that our *Limenitis* are plastic forms of one species, accommodating themselves readily to the environment, assuming colors from climatic effect or different seasons and localities, or for purposes of protection—the form *L. disippus* being mimetic of *plexippus*, as already suggested by authors. My conclusions are drawn from the following observations: Near the Hudson River I find *ursula* and *proserpina* in close association, each partaking of the markings of the other, evidently one brood, alighting on the same heap of pomace; expansion of wings three to three and a half inches. About six miles from the river *ursula* and *proserpina* are equally abundant, with a few *arthemis* and rarely a *disippus*. Expansion of the wings of the four about two and a half inches; all found in one glade. From this to the highest tables of the Helderberg Hills, *ursula* gradually disappears and only *proserpina* and *arthemis* are found, the latter most abundant. In the low lands *disippus*, *ursula* and *proserpina* are only found; in intermediate broken lands *ursula*, *proserpina* and *arthemis* are chiefly found; at the highest altitudes only *proserpina* and *arthemis* are found, and examinations of many examples from the different localities show that these forms approach each other very closely.

In December, 1877, I sent a melanitic form of *disippus* to W. H. Edwards, Esq., for his examination, and in a communication written to Mr. Edwards at the time, I ventured the assertion of all being one species. As Mr. Edwards did not notice it in a future communication, I took it as a gentle way of dealing with an absurdity. From captures made since I am convinced that all our *Limenitis* have one origin. In proof I have in my collection a *disippus* without the division line on secondaries; some with narrow and others with broad mesial lines. In one example the dividing line is extended to a broad band, with blue crescents in marginal, and red lunules in submarginal band. An *arthemis* from the white band to margin is the exact counterpart of it; in one example, on the under surface of secondaries inside of mesial line, are white lunules.

I have a melanitic form of *disippus* with all the markings of *ursula* on the under surface, and an *ursula* that mimics this at the apex of superior wings, and is suffused with tawny red to base of wing. One *ursula* has a bright red under surface, and so on through many examples blending into each other in color, proving all to be of one origin. The larvæ feed on much the same food plants. The larvæ of *disippus* and *ursula* are held by many collectors to be undistinguishable.

ANOTHER BEE ENEMY.

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About one year ago I received a small bug from a gentleman in Maryland, together with the information that it was a serious enemy of the honey bee. It was stated that this bug would lie concealed among the flowers, and upon occasion would grasp a bee, and, holding it off at arm's length, would suck out its blood and life. More recently, I have heard of the same insect, with the same habits, in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and more recently, through the editor of *Gleanings*, from Minnesota, and later still, from V. W. Keeney, Shirland, Ill. In one case it was stated that the bug had the power, which it was not slow to use, of stinging quite severely. This same insect has been observed by both Prof. W. J. Beal and myself, at this place, resting on flowers, in which it is often almost concealed, awaiting an opportunity to capture and defluidize its prospective victims.

WHAT IS IT?

This is a Hemipteron, or true bug, and belongs to the family *Phymatidæ* Uhr. It is the *Phymata erosa*, Fabr., the specific name *erosa* referring to its jagged appearance. It is also called the "stinging bug," in reference to its habit of repelling intrusion by a painful thrust with its sharp, strong beak.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

This insect is mentioned by the lamented Dr. B. D. Walsh (Am. Entomol., vol. 1, p. 141), who facetiously compares its intelligence with