

what is given in the Synopsis, I have not re-copied my description. The species arrived just in the last moment, when my manuscript was to be sent to Washington, therefore I have not given more details. The characters quoted—antennæ short, club large, almost orbicular; wings short the apex very much dilated; the venation peculiar, simple—make it doubtful if *M. ? pygmaea* belongs to this genus.

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## FURTHER INJURY TO LIVING PLANTS BY WHITE ANTS.

BY SAMUEL H. SCUDDER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

More than twenty-five years since (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., v. 7, p. 287-288) I published an account of serious injury to living grape-vines in hot-houses in Salem, Mass., by our common species of white ants. *Termes flavipes*. No further notice of their injury to living vegetation appears to have been taken until a few years ago, when Prof. J. H. Comstock, then government entomologist, stated (Rep. Comm. Agric., 1879, 207-8) that they had been found in Texas and Florida "girdling the bark of orange trees and guava bushes near the surface of the ground, or eating out the interior of sugar-cane and other plants." "When white ants infest living plants," the report goes on to state, "they attack that part which is at or just below the surface of the ground. In the case of pampas grass, the base of the stalk is hollowed; with woody plants, as orange trees and guava bushes, the bark of the base of the trunk is eaten, and frequently the tree is completely girdled; with sugar-cane the most serious injury is the destruction of the seed cane."

Still more recently, Dr. H. A. Hagen published in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST (v. 17, p. 134-136) another instance here in Cambridge where living maple trees were largely infested by them, though the ants appeared to have done little damage, the trees being "apparently in good condition," but one of them being felled it was found that for a couple of feet above the ground, to the depth of an inch from the surface, the trunk was extensively burrowed by the white ants.

In this same article, after referring to the injury reported from Salem, Dr. Hagen adds: "The earth in the hot-houses here in Cambridge is largely infested by white ants, but as far as I know, no destruction of

plants has been observed." This is no longer true, for in the autumn of 1886 I was asked to look at the green-house connected with Mt. Auburn Cemetery, to see if anything could be done to prevent the loss of geranium cuttings by an insect, which turned out to be the same culprit. The bed in which the cuttings were set was a long shallow wooden box or tray placed against the northern wall of the green-house; the tray was filled with moistened sand and kept constantly warm by being directly over a chamber heated by hot-water pipes. The ants thus found the precise condition which they prefer, warm moisture, and the wooden sides of the tray showed everywhere the characteristic gauges of the insect. The geranium cuttings were plunged near together in the sand, and the ants entering at the cut end had eaten out everything but the rind, and by the time they had penetrated the cutting above the level of the sand, the drooping leaves gave sign of the injury to the plant. Some, the leaves of which had begun to turn black, were found to have been eaten to the very bases of the terminal leaves, and a good deal of injury had been done, hundreds of cuttings having been destroyed; the trouble had been going on, I was told, for a year. As a light porous soil is required for the culture of the cuttings, and a receptacle allowing the passage of the water with a certain freedom, I recommended that the bottom of the tray be made of slate or tiles of the material from which flower pots are made, and the sides of zinc or other metal, high enough to come several inches above the sand.

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ON *COLIAS ERIPHYLE* Edw., AND *C. HAGENII* Edw.

BY W. H. EDWARDS, COALBURGH, W. VA.

In my last paper I showed that *C. Hagenii* was a yellow form of *C. Eurytheme* Bois., and I am now prepared to say that *Hagenii* is identical with *Eriphyle*, and the name gives way to this. I described *Eriphyle*, Tr. Am. Ent. Soc., v., 202, 1876, from about thirty individuals of both sexes, taken in British Columbia, at Lake Lahache, by the late G. R. Crotch; and related that they were submitted to Mr. Henry Edwards, who pronounced them distinct from any of the Pacific coast species, an opinion with which I agreed. I said they came nearest *Philodice*, and pointed out the differences, which seemed to be decisive against their being of that