

Alysia ruskii should perhaps form a new genus near *Alysia*, but it seems better to leave it in *Alysia* sens. latiss.

Heriades saxosus, n. sp.

♂—Length about $7\frac{1}{4}$ mm., in a rather contracted state, the abdomen strongly convex dorsally in profile; head and thorax dark brown, probably black in life; abdomen lighter and redder; wings hyaline, very faintly dusky; anterior wings 4 mm. long; venation as in *H. sauteri* from Formosa, except that lower section of basal nervure is more arched, the marginal cell is considerably longer and more pointed, and the bend in the second t.c. is less distinct. As in *H. sauteri*, the second a.n. squarely meets the second t.c. The following measurements are in microns: Length of marginal cell 1152; depth of marginal cell 304; greatest (diagonal) length of first s.m. 768; second s.m. on marginal, 240; lower side of second s.m. 544; second s.m. on first discoidal 80; greatest (diagonal) length of first discoidal about 976. The basal nervure practically meets the transversomedial, which, as usual in *Heriadines*, is oblique, the lower end most basad.

Florissant, Colorado, in the Miocene shales; Station 14 (*W. P. Cockerell*.)

Among the fossil bees hitherto found at Florissant, this comes nearest to *Heriades laminarum* Ckll., but is smaller, with the second r.n. meeting second t.c., and the b.n. hardly falling short of the t.m. The apex of the marginal cell is pointed, if rather obtusely, not rounded. The first r.n. joins the second s.m. at a distance from its base equal to a little over a third of the length of the first t.c., the latter being about 224 microns long. The stigma is well developed.

CONCERNING THE REPUTED DISASTROUS OCCURRENCE OF *VANESSA CALIFORNICA* IN OREGON AND CALIFORNIA

BY J. MCDUNNOUGH, DECATUR, ILL.

In the April number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Prof. F. M. Webster of the Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C., recounts several instances of devastation of crops and foliage which he attributes to the larvæ of *Vanessa californica*. A careful study of the various letters quoted convinces us that in all but the last

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instance the author is in error in determining the larvæ as belonging to this species.

In the Proceedings of the California Academy of Science, June 7th, 1875, Hy. Edwards gave a detailed account of the larva of *Californica*, citing the food plant as *Ceanothus*; according to this account the larva is jet black, *strongly spined* (a characteristic of all *Vanessa* larvæ) with five branched spines on each segment, the middle spine being bright-yellow at the base; at the bases of the spines are bright, steel-blue tubercles and between them numerous circular, whitish-yellow dots, giving the appearance of a yellow dorsal line. It is a well-known fact that the larvæ of the various *Vanessa* species are restricted to one or two food plants and it would be a most extraordinary proceeding if a Vanessid larva, normally restricted to *Ceanothus* as a food plant, should suddenly be found devastating alfalfa and garden truck.

Taking the various reports in order, we note from that of Mr. T. V. Hall of Lakeview, Oregon, that the "worm" which had destroyed the alfalfa crop was brownish colour, with *sleek* appearing surface. This description could hardly, even by the most ignorant, be drawn up from the jet black, heavily spined Vanessid larva; it could, however, easily apply to any one of the "cut-worm" species.

The next letter, from Mr. A. J. Swift of the the same locality, reports the occurrence of vast swarms of *californica* a month after the crops had been ravaged by a "worm" varying from bright green to nearly black, according to its food supply. There is nothing, except the imagination of the writer and the appearance of the butterfly at a later date than the larvæ, to connect the two. The swarms of the butterfly, which doubtless was *californica*, may be accounted for either as due to imaginary instincts or to the fact that the larvæ had actually bred in numbers on *Ceanothus* in the high valleys, a feature which would naturally not be observed by farmers, who are principally interested in their crops.

In the report from Mr. J. J. Mcnroe of Willow Ranch, California, we note one feature that would absolutely preclude the determination of the destructive larvæ as *californica*, i. e., the fact that they burrowed in the ground during the day, feeding by night. This is characteristic of "cut-worms" but unknown in Vanessid

larvæ, which remain on their food plants continually, usually feeding gregariously by day.

Mr. Webb's report from Waldo, Oregon, actually does deal with *californica*. He cites the larvæ as completely stripping the foliage off grease-wood and mountain lilac. We do not know just what is meant by this latter plant, but believe that *Ceanothus* is often locally called grease-wood. From this report it would seem that there is some danger, when vast numbers of the larvæ are present, of fruit trees being attacked, but it is apparent that only when the natural food supply is exhausted would this occur. We note that it is distinctly stated that "they seemed to care for nothing to speak of but grease-wood and lilac", and the fact that "tons" of them perished on water and land in their vain search for a further food supply only goes to support our previous statement that *californica* is very restricted in its choice for food plants and the idea of its being held responsible for damage to alfalfa and other crops may be banished as so improbable as to be almost ridiculous.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MONTREAL BRANCH

The fortieth annual meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario was held at the residence of Mr. Henry H. Lyman on Saturday evening, May 17th. Mr. G. A. Southee, President, occupied the chair, seven members being present.

After the reading of the minutes and election of Mr. G. M. Henderson as a member the reports of the council and of the treasurer were read and adopted. The president delivered his annual address dealing with the good work accomplished by members of the branch in spite of the exceptionally unfavourable weather conditions, several new species and varieties of moths having been discovered as well as some rare captures, notably *Hepialus auratus*, the second Canadian specimen.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, A. F. Winn; Vice-President and Librarian, G. Chagnon; Secretary, Geo. A. Moore; Treasurer and Curator, Henry H. Lyman; Members of Council, G. A. Southee, E. C. Barwick, G. H. Clayson.

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