

*Pit.* or mulberry silkworm. — Of this there are two species cultivated in Assam; the univoltine *Bombyx textor*, called *bor pola*, or large worm, and the multivoltine *horn pola*, or small worm, *Bombyx crassii*. Both Species are reared indoors on the leaves of the mulberry (*Morus indica*).

*Attacus ricini*. — *Eri* worm, or *Attacus ricini*. This is reared principally on the castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), called *eri* in Assamese, but it feeds also on the *Keseru* (*Heteropanax fragrans*), and there are several other trees, as *galuncha* (*Jatropha curcas*), the *gomari* (*Gmelina arborea*, and even it is said, the common *bogri* or *ber* tree (*Zizyphus jujuba*), which the worm can thrive on in its later stages, if other food is not procurable in sufficient quantity. The *Eri* worm is multivoltine, and is reared entirely indoors, and as many as eight broods can be obtained in twelve months. Large numbers of worms are lost by disease during these indoor rearings, which is not to be wondered at, as the excreta and even the dead worms are not removed. The *Eri* worm is cultivated, to a greater or less extent, in every district of the province of Assam.

The number of moultings of the *Eri* worm is four. The caterpillar is first about a quarter of an inch long, and appears nearly black. The colour is, perhaps, more exactly described as a blackish-yellow. As it increases in size, it becomes of an orange colour, with six black spots on each of the twelve rings which form its body. The head, claws, and holders are black; after the second moulting, they change to an orange colour; that of the body gradually becomes lighter, in some approaching to white, in others to green, and the black spots gradually become the colour of the body. After the fourth or last moulting, the colour is a dirty white, or a dark green. On attaining its full size, the worm is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. According to one series of observations, it would appear that in the hot months, the first change of skin occurs three days after hatching, and the rest follow at intervals of three days, while the worm begins to spin on the fourth day after the final change, or the fifteenth day after hatching. In the cooler months, the period between each moulting is four or five days, making twenty to twenty-five days between hatching and beginning to spin; and in the winter season, the worm lives a whole month, or even longer.

The *Muga* worm or *Antheraea assamaca* (L.

*assamensis*). — The scientific name of the *Muga* silkworm denotes its peculiar connection with Assam, and in fact it is found in no other part of India except Dehra Doon, where it occurs sparingly. Its Assamese name, *muga*, is said to be derived from the amber colour of the silk, and is frequently used to denote silk in general, so that *Eri muga* means eri silk, *Kulkuri muga* tusser silk, and so on; the genuine *muga* being distinguished by the title of *Sompattia muga*, or silk yielded by the worm that feeds on the *sam* leaf. It is a multivoltine worm, and is commonly said to be semi-domesticated, because it is reared upon trees in the open air; but in fact it is as much domesticated as any other species, being hatched indoors, while during its life on the tree it is entirely dependent on the cultivator for protection from its numerous enemies.

(to be continued.)

#### Mitteilungen des entomologischen Vereins für Hamburg-Altona 1899—1904.

Die im Jahr 1898 von nur wenigen Sammlern gegründete Vereinigung zeigt, wenn man ihren Bericht durchgeht, ein reges entomologisches Leben. Den Hauptinhalt der Mitteilungen bildet ein Verzeichnis der Schmetterlinge der Umgegend Hamburg-Altonas aus der Feder von O. Laplace, dem Vorsitzenden. Es sind darin die Macro-Lepidopteren sorgfältig behandelt, ihr Fundort und Zeit des Vorkommens notiert und wird die Arbeit speziell den Sammlern Hamburg-Altonas ein wertvoller Ratgeber sein.

#### Briefkasten der Redaktion

Herrn W. N. in Z. Versandt kann erst mit nächster Nummer erfolgen; die anderen Listen waren zuerst angemeldet.

Herrn A. G. in B. Komme später auf Ihre Karte zurück, erwarte erst noch weitere Sendungen und Anweisung. Vorläufig danke für Ihre Bereitwilligkeit.

#### Bibliothek der Societas entomologica.

Von Herrn Paul Born ging als Geschenk ein: Über einige Formen des *Carabus violaceus* L.

*Carabus morbillosus* und seine Formen von Paul Born.

Vom entomolog. Ver. Hamburg-Altona:

Mitteilungen des Entomologischen Vereins für Hamburg-Altona 1899—1904.

Der Empfang wird dankend bestätigt

M. Rühl.

#### Neu eingelaufene Preislisten.

Arnold Voelshuch in Schwerin: Preisliste Nr. 42 über lebendes Zuchtmaterial. Eier, Raupen und Puppen europäischer und exotischer Lepidopteren. Eier von Stabheuschrecken. Terrarien-Tiere.

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