

nach vorn) gerichteten, weniger stark verdickten Schulterfortsätzen, breiterem Hinterleib und dunklerer Farbe der Oberseite. Ein schmäler Seitensaum des Pronotums, zwei querovale Flecken der Cicatrices und die Adern der Halbdecken honiggelb. Färbung der Unterseite ähnlich der bei *E. bulbarea*, doch die Randflecken des Bauches kleiner, kreisrund, kaum grösser als die F.cke auf den Stigmen. Länge 23, Schulterbr. $17\frac{2}{3}$ mm. Surinam.

Edessa gnu n. spec. ♀. Von der Grösse und ungefähren Gestalt der *E. seidens* Fab. und *E. electa* Walk., durch die an der Spitze leicht kugelförmig verdickten und nach hinten gebogenen Ecken der Schulterfortsätze einen Übergang machend zu der Verwandtschaft der *E. saluata* Dall. Oben schmutzig olivengelblich, die knollenförmige Schulterverdickung schwarz. Corium pechbraun, basalwärts heller. Die gelben Flecke des schwarzen Connexivs nehmen nur das mittlere Drittel der Segmentlänge ein. Unterseite, Beine, Fühler rostgelblich, der Bauchrand heller, mit schwarzen Randflecken. Länge $22\frac{1}{4}$, Schulterbreite 15 mm. Amazonas.

Edessa stillativentris n. spec. ♀. Ähnlich der *E. voratirentis* m. Doch die Schulterfortsätze kürzer, die äusserste Spitze leicht pechbraun angelauf, die Äste des Sternalkiels nach vorn nur sehr wenig divergent. Oben trübe hellgrünlich, die Punktierung ist auf dem Kopf pechschwarz, sonst farblos; die Unterseite ist wie bei *E. voratirentis* gefärbt. Länge $20\frac{1}{2}$, Schulterbr. $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Venezuela.

Sibaria andicola n. spec. Von der ähnlichen *S. armata* Stål, durch die dunklere, (fast schwarze) Färbung der Oberseite, den fehlenden weissen Punktfleck des Coriums, die geringe Ausdehnung der schwarzen Farbe am 5. Fühlerglied (höchstens $\frac{1}{8}$) und die abweichende Form des Endrandes der ♂. Genitalplatte unterschieden. Letztere in der Mitte mit etwa halbkreisförmigem Ausschnitt: die Seitenlappen mit gerade gestutztem Endrand (ohne Zahnecken.) Länge $9\frac{1}{2}$, Schulterbr. $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Ecuador.

Silkworms of Assam.

The *sum* tree (*Machilus odoratissima*) furnishes its favourite food, but in Lower Assam it is extensively bred on the *smilu* (*Tetranthera monopetalia*). The leaves of certain other forest trees — the *dighlati* (*Tet. glauca*), the *pitichanda* (*Cinn. obtusifolium*), and the *bamroti* (*Symplocos grandiflora*) — can be eaten by the worm in its maturer stages if the

supply of its staple food begins to fail; but the *sum* and the *smilu* are the only trees upon which the worm yielding the ordinary *muga* silk (as distinguished from *champa* and *mezankuri*) can be permanently reared. The *sum*-fed worm is considered to yield the most delicate silk, and *smilu* trees on the edges of *sum* plantations are generally left untouched, though small plantations of *smilu* only may occasionally be met with.

Five successive broods of the *Muga* worm are obtained, but it is only in a few parts of the Assam valley that this regular succession of broods is maintained. The worm is said to degenerate if bred all the year round in Upper Assam, as the rearing is discontinued in the summer, another reason for doing so being that the *sum* forests are at that time flooded by the rains, therefore the breeders of Upper Assam generally go down to Kámrúp or Nowgong to buy breeding cocoons at the beginning of the cold season. The period from hatching to maturity varies from twenty-six days in summer to forty days in winter. The *Muga* cocoon is in size about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long by 1 inch in diameter. In colour it is a golden yellow, but there are usually a number of dark cocoons in every brood. The silk of the cocoon is reeled, but no part of it is rejected as useless; the floss plucked off before reeling, the silk of the shell, and that of the open cocoons, are spun by hand into a coarser thread, which is mixed with *Eri* thread, or is woven by itself into warm and durable fabrics.

There are two varieties of the *Muga* assumed by it when the worm is fed on the *champa* (or more properly *chapa*) and the *mezankuri*, or *adakuri* (*Tetranthera polyantha*). *Champa* silk seems to be quite forgotten now. It is described as a very fine white silk, which used to be worn only by the Ahom Kings and their nobles. *Mezankuri* silk is still to be procured, but with great difficulty. In the last years, there does not seem to have been a single piece obtainable in Jorhát. One of the reasons alleged for this falling off is that the new rules restricting clearances of the forests are unfavourable to the growth of the *mezankuri* tree. This tree springs up spontaneously in abandoned clearances, and it is in this early shrublike stage that it is fit for the worms to feed on. In its second year, the worms fed on it give coarser silk; in the third year, the silk is hardly distinguishable from the common *muga*. Thus the mature tree is quit out of the question,

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and as the *mezankuri* is never cultivated, forest clearances are the only places where the breeders could look for young trees. When fed on the *mezankuri*, the *Muga* worm spins a fine silk of almost a pure white, about thrice as valuable as the common *muga*, in fact the most costly of all the silks in Assam. The silks is altogether an article of luxury.

pete with the cheaper and better tusser supplied by Bengal.
(to be continued.)

II. Wild Silkworms.

1. *Bau muga* (*Antheraea assama*), or forest *Muga*, is simply the common *Muga* worm in its wild stage. The cocoons are not plentiful enough to be largely used, but the wild moth is sometimes allowed to improve the strain of the domestic breed.

2. *Attacus cynthis*. — The wild *Attacus cynthis* is closely allied to the *Eri* worm, and in some cases is regarded as the *Eri* in its wild state. It appears to be commonest in Cachar, but it is also known in Kámrúp.

3. *Petigore muga* (*Attacus atlas*). — The *Petigore* silkworm feeds on the *kutkuri* (*Vangueria spinosa*), the word *muga* being added to its name in the generic signification of silkworm. It is rare in the Assam valley, but common enough in Cachar. It is said to be easily capable of domestication.

4. *Wild Püt Worm*. — There is a wild silkworm of the *püt* species, which is found on banyan trees (*Ficus indica*), and is sometimes taken and reared by Jugis on mulberry leaves, like the domesticated worm, to which it becomes thoroughly assimilated in the course of three generations. The worms are evidently of the smaller, or multivoltine, kind. It is not certain whether the larger kind are found in the wild state.

5. *Assamese tusser* (*Kutkuri*, *Antheraea paphia*). The silkworm called the *Kutkuri* is believed to be the same as the common *Tusser* of Bengal. Its food is principally the *kutkuri* (*Vangueria spinosa*) from which it takes its name, or else the plant called (erroneously) the wild rhododendron (*Melastoma malabatricum*), the Assamese name of which is *phutuka*. It has been cultivated in the palmy days of the Assam silk industry, but is is now almost entirely neglected, as being inferior to *Muga*, and also, perhaps, because it only yields three broods in the year. It is common in Jorhát and Cachar. The *phutuka* being one of the commonest wild shrubs in Assam, the *Kutkuri* worm could probably be cultivated at little cost, but the silk could not com-

Literatur

Die Käfer Europas. Nach der Natur beschrieben von Dr. H. C. Küster und Dr. G. Kraatz. Fortgesetzt von J. Schilsky. Heft 41. Nürnberg, Verlag, von Bauer und Raspe (Emil Küster.)

Dieses 41. Heft stellt sich die Beschreibung der Bruchiden zur Aufgabe. 4 Arten sind als neu angeführt, nämlich *Kytorhinus reitteri*, *Bruchidius angustifrons*, *ganglbaueri* und *sahlbergi*. Verfasser betont seinen Standpunkt betreffs der Nomenklatur über *Bruchus* L. und führt die Gründe an, derer wegen er an dieser Bezeichnung festhält, statt sich zu *Mylabris* Geoffr. oder *Laria* Scop. zu entschließen. Den Beschreibungen ist eine Bestimmungstabelle vorgesetzt. Sodann enthält das Bändchen Nachträge zu Heft 40 und ein systematisches Verzeichnis der in der 4ten Serie (Heft 31—40) von J. Schilsky beschriebenen Arten.

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Briefkasten der Redaktion

Herrn V. P. in M. Sch. Die Drucksachen sind richtig angelangt.

Herrn R. M. in T. Bestellung schon erfolgt. Erwarte nur noch Nachricht und Rechnung.

Herrn W. M. in W. Die Raupen müssen öfter fein bestäubt werden; ich benütze eine Pflanzenbrause dazu.

Anzeigen.

Der heutigen Nummer liegt eine Preisliste entomologischer Utensilien von Wilhelm Niepelt — Zirlau, bei.

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