

durch ein Beispiel zu bekräftigen: Innerhalb meines Gartens liegt ein Stück Ackerland, das heuer zum Teil mit rotem, zum Teil mit weissem Bastardklee bestanden war. Letztere Futterpflanze zeichnet sich durch Härte und wenig Süsse aus und wird daher vom Vieh ungern gefressen. Nun habe ich wahrgenommen, dass Weisslinge und andere helle Falter den weissen Klee, der ihrer Färbung doch mehr entspricht, vermeidend, sich ausschliesslich auf dem roten tummelten und deshalb weithin sichtbar waren. Den besten Schutz bei etwaigen Nachstellungen bietet, meines Bedünkens, den Pieriden ihr unstäter Zickzackflug, durch welchen sie den in gerader Richtung dahinschliessenden Vögeln am leichtesten entgehen.

Zum Schlusse möchte ich noch in Kürze des als Trutzfärbung geltenden Auges auf den Hinterflügeln des Abendpfaunenges (*Smerinthus ocellatus* L.) sowie der ebenfalls von Manchen als Schreckmittel aufgefassten Augenflecke bei *Vanessa* jo L. gedenken. Jedesmal, wenn ich unbrauchbare, aber noch lebende Exemplare dieser Arten zum Fenster hinaussetzte, wurden sie ohne Umstände von den Hühnern oder auch dem auf Schmetterlinge so gierigen Kleiber gepackt und verschlungen, während sie tote Tiere nicht anrührten. Das anfängliche, auch von mir bemerkte Stutzen der Hühner und anderer Vögel beim Anblicke irgend eines neuen Gegenstandes entspringt weniger der Furcht, als der Vorsicht. Selbst beim Vorwerfen grösserer Brotstücke beäugeln sie diese zunächst von allen Seiten, ehe sie zu fressen anfangen.

### Notes on Silk-producing Bombyces. North American Species.

*Callosamia promethea*. As in previous years, I received a large quantity of cocoons of this species, and the moths emerged from the 23rd May to the 17th of July; in 1903, they emerged from the 25th of June to the 16th of July. I note these dates to show that several species emerged much earlier in 1904 in consequence of the warmer weather. A great many pairings were obtained, and the worms placed in the open air on lilac trees thrived this year very well, commencing the formation of the cocoons on the 25th of September.

*Platysamia cecropia*. Moths emerged this year from the 13th of April till about the end June, more than a month earlier than in 1903. Many pairings were obtained, but only a few larvæ were reared, and that for the purpose of comparing them with

those of a hybrid species, *ceanothi-cecropia*, of which I shall speak presently.

*Platysamia ceanothi*. This year 1904 I had about 20 *ceanothi* live cocoons, the moths of which emerged from the 22nd of May to the 13th of July. No *ceanothi* pairings were obtained, but on the 5th of June, a female *ceanothi* paired with a male *cecropia*, and another similar pairing took place on the 22th of June; 229 eggs were obtained from the first pairing, and 228 from the second. On the 8th of June a pairing took place between a male *ceanothi* and a female *cecropia*, but the eggs obtained from this pairing did not hatch. On the contrary, the eggs from the two first pairings were not only fertile, but they produced larvæ which grew and thrived remarkably well. Unfortunately, I have a disaster to record. The larvæ, when at the second stage, were reared in the garden on branches of apple trees and willows where, after growing to the third and many to the end of the fourth stage, they were all destroyed by earwigs, which had introduced themselves in the muslin bags which I had placed round the branches on which the larvæ were feeding.

The larvæ from the pairing of the 5th of June, hatched from the 26th of June; those from the pairing of the 22nd of June, hatched from the 6th of July, six days earlier than the first, owing to the higher temperature.

I must mention that, when the female *ceanothi* paired with the male *cecropia* moths, there were in the cages male *ceanothi*, and I think, I now have cause to believe that I should have had some success with the pairings of *ceanothi* moths among themselves, if the cages had been placed in the open air instead of being left in a room; *cecropia* is a much stronger species, which is not much affected by surrounding circumstances.

The principal difference between the larvæ of the hybrid *ceanothi-cecropia* and those of *cecropia* was that in the hybrid, in third and fourth stage, there were six dorsal red spines instead of four as in *cecropia*; some larvæ, in fourth stage, had the dorsal spines nearly of a uniform colour. From an earlier report, it will be seen that the larvæ of *ceanothi* have, in the third stage, all the dorsal spines or tubercles of a golden yellow colour; those of a hybrid between *ceanothi* and *gloveri* had orange-red dorsal spines. In other respects, the larvæ of the various species are very similar, being very closely allied.

(To be continued.)

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