

Experimenten sind Licht-, Nahrungs-, Einatmungs-, Hybridations-, Kastrations-, Transplantations-, Regenerations- und Verwachsungsversuche besprochen, ein Beweis für die Vollständigkeit dieser Abteilung. Auch der fortgeschrittenste Entomologe wird hier manches Neue finden. In keinem bisher erschienenen Fachwerke finden wir den allgemeinen Teil in solch' meisterhafter Weise geschrieben. — Einem jeden Entomologen, nicht bloss Lepidopterologen, welche Fachwissenschaft er auch betreibt, kann mit bestem Gewissen die Anschaffung des hervorragenden Buches dringend empfohlen werden; er wird manche Anregung daraus schöpfen!

Carl Frings.

57 : 08

## Entomologische Neuigkeiten.

Die Zahl der nachts ihr Wesen treibenden Hymenopteren ist nicht gross, wenigstens soweit unsere bisherigen Kenntnisse reichen. Leonardo Fea gewährte in Burma einen *Bombus* oder (vielleicht *Xylocopus*), der eine nächtliche Lebensweise führte, er sammelte Honig und Pollen im hellsten Mondschein. Nun berichtet P. Cameron über dieselbe Gewohnheit zweier sozialer Wespen, der *Vespa doryloides* und *Apoica virginea*. Erstere hat grosse Aehnlichkeit mit der geflügelten Form von *Dorylus*, lebt in dichten Wäldern, fühlt sich im Tageslicht unbehaglich und wird erst nachts mobil. Die *Apoica* hält sich Tags über ruhig in ihrem Nest auf und fliegt, Honig sammelnd, bei Nacht.

Die Grafschaft Aberdeen in Schottland lieferte eine hübsche neue Noctuide, die von Sir George F. Hampson als *Peucephila n. g. essoni n. sp.* beschrieben wurde. Das Tierchen kam im Fichtenwald im Juli an den Köder und gehört zu den Hadeninae. Seine Färbung lässt darauf schliessen, dass es wohl gewöhnlich an Fichtenstämmen ruht.

*Adalia obliterata* und *Halyzia 18-guttata* wurden in Copula angetroffen.

In einem englischen Orchideenhäus schlüpfte die seltene *Castnia tharapon* aus. Die leere Puppenhülle wurde zwischen den Wurzeln einer *Stanhopea* gefunden, die schon seit einem Jahr im Besitz Dr. Wallaces war. Sie kam aus Buenos-Ayres, stammte aber ursprünglich aus Santos in Brasilien, und es ist anzunehmen, dass beide, die *Orchis* und die *Castnia* den beinahe unbekanntem Hügelkomplex südwestlich von Santos bewohnen, der sich zwischen der Sierra und der See hinzieht. Wahrscheinlich sind die Küstenwälder reich und weniger erforscht, da die meisten Reisenden sich dem Innern zuwenden. Da die Pflanze geholt worden ist als sie in Trockenzustand sich befand, wurde offenbar die Entwicklung der *Castnia* verzögert, nur so erklärt sich die mehrjährige Puppenruhe.

Auf Ceylon sind eine Blume nachahmende Wanzen beobachtet worden und zwar rufen eine vereinte Menge derselben, *Dysdercus cingulatus*, diesen Eindruck hervor. Sie leben auf dem „Suriya“ tree, *Thespesia populnea* und sind derartig auf der Spitze der Zweige gruppiert, dass sie der roten Blüte des Baumes gleichen.

Ebenfalls auf dieser gesegneten Insel wurden geflügelte Dipteren tragende Coleopteren gesehen. Auf *Scarabaeus gangeticus* liefen behende, kleine, zu den Borboriden gehörende Fliegen umher. Einer der Käfer hatte 12, zwei andere 3 auf sich, doch ist es wahrscheinlich, dass weitere beim Fang davongeflogen sind. Es scheint, dass die Fliegen nicht als Parasiten auf den Käfern leben, sondern diese als Transportmittel be-

nützen, vielleicht um durch sie bequem zu den Exkrementen wilder Büffel geführt zu werden.

Wieder sind 2 gynandromorphe Ameisen vorgezeigt worden, *Formica sanguinea* und *Myrmica scabrinodis*.

## A Biological Inquiry into the Nature of Melanism in *Amphidasys betularia*, Linn.,

by

H. S. Leigh, F.E.S.,

the University, Manchester.

It is well known to entomologists that dark varieties of several species of moths have recently become increasingly common in many localities within the British Isles, and also that the dark forms are appearing in fresh districts. It is very desirable and important to know whether the colour of these dark races is protective or whether it has some other significance. Before, however, any explanation of these phenomena can be attempted it is necessary to have, if possible, a fairly correct knowledge of the resting habits of some of the species of moths which are known to exhibit this melanic variation. That is to say it is important to know whether the light-coloured moths (for example the peppered form of *A. betularia*) generally rest during the day on lichen-covered trunks of trees or any other light-coloured object, and also whether the dark insects (as the form *Doubledayaria* of *A. betularia*) select black tree trunks or other dark-coloured objects on which to rest.

Information of this nature can only be obtained by the co-operation of very many entomologists, for the chance of obtaining sufficient evidence from the observations of one or two persons is very remote.

I should therefore be extremely grateful if entomologists would assist me in collecting information regarding the resting habits of any of the undermentioned species of moths belonging to the Geometrae which may come under their notice during the present summer.

Although the investigation which I am making is really on the „melanism“ of *A. betularia*, the chances of obtaining sufficient records about the resting habits of this species alone would be so small that I have included several other well-known melanic species in the list, in the hope that each entomologist may be able to make at least one record about one of the species in the list from his own observations. Particulars are requested concerning the following: —

- Amphidasys betularia* (*Peppered Moth*).
- Odontoptera bidentata* (*Scalloped Hazel*).
- Phigalia pilosaria* (*Pale Brindled Beauty*).
- Amphidasys prodromaria* (*Oak Beauty*).
- Boarmia repandata* (*Mottled Beauty*).
- Boarmia abietaria* (*Satin Carpet*).
- Boarmia rhomboidaria* (*Willow Beauty*).
- Hybernia progemma* (*Dotted Border*).
- Gnophos obscurata* (*Annulet*).

Confirmatory evidence is of great value, and I should be very glad to receive records made independently by different persons for the same locality.

Replies may be sent to H. S. Leigh, the University, Manchester, England.

All help received will be fully acknowledged on publication, and I would like here to express (as it has not yet been possible to publish anything upon the subject) my great indebtedness to those English ento-



mologists who have previously sent valuable information concerning the distribution, etc., of the various forms of *A. betularia* in their own particular districts in compliance with a former request.

57 (56.9)

## The Old Inhabitants of a Jerusalem Garden.

by A. H. Swinton.

It was the fifth of May of the year 1906 when I arrived with a portmanteau at the lodging house kept by Mrs. Reardon in the suburbs of Jerusalem, and the Paschal Butterflies, *Thais cerisyi*, whose notched, red bedropped wings keep in memory a crown of thorns, had ceased to wander adown the rough slope of Olivet among a glow of ensanguined cyclamen and the fading glory of scarlet anemones. The pension in which I found myself located consisted in a central diningroom on which dormitories opened on either hand; behind was a kitchen and overhead on the flat roof an open cistern to collect the former and latter rain of winter. No doves or pigeons racoed to greet the returning year; they are not now much kept in Judea, and the last lion that came up from the swelling of the Jordan they say was killed by the crusaders. the wild ass does not snuff the air on Olivet and the gazelle of the dawn is not seen there. Adown the lanes of Bethlehem a large white sow wanders at its at its own sweet will, for the pale-faced inhabitants are christians; and still a carob tree, *Ceratonia siliqua*, whose flowers have no corolla, lingers beside an arab village, where it dropped its fattening husks for the Roman swine. How centuries had flown! On entering my dormitory I noticed a whitey-brown, long-legged arachnide, called by the Arabs Ankaboot, on the window pane; and imagining this to be the Accabish, or handyspider alluded to by King Solomon, when at leisure I sat down and made a sketch of it which I sent to Mr. Pickard Cambridge who being unable to identify this with the *Pholcus phelangioides* that was an eyesore in his Dorsetshire church, desired a specimen in alcohol. The *Pholcus* abounds some years in the west of England and on the western seaboard of France, and it is wonderful to see it wait for the blue-bottle flies at sundown and hang them up like legs of mutton, screaming in a winding sheet.

Having rested, I strolled out in the cloudless sunshine with my missionary acquaintance, Mr. Joseph, to the Jaffa Gate where are hotels and tourist agencies, and here amid the concourse of copper-coloured men and dromedaries resembling shoe leather with a white one among them, flies, the minions of Baalzebub, arose with surging hum from the comestibles exposed for sale by bronzed arab traders, who sat crosslegged and motionless like idol gods. No doubt but what these were the flies that cause ophthalmia and which in the days of King Solomon contaminated the drugs of the apothecary; those I found congregated on Mrs Reardon's refuse heap on my return, Mr. Wingate, author of the Durham Diptera, informed me were the English House Fly, *Musca domestica*, known to the Arabs as Dubban Balady, the kitchen Blue Bottle with the Red Cheeks, *Calliphora erythrocephala*, the Green Fly, *Lucilia caesar*, and the grey-checked, carrion loving, *Sarcophaga carnaria*: around the shade of the trees, *Homalomyia scalaris*, that whiles the summer hour in Europe and North America, went on its circling dance and invited to a garden chair to meditate on Olivet that rose in prospect thinly dotted over with olives and crowned with an arb village and lean Russian belfry.

The lodging house repast was patriarchal, the herds of black cows that wander among the pheasant's eyes and red poppies, or Shaarari, on the Plain of Sharon, where we had seen a Blue Jay, we were told were unwell, the mutton proved to be tough like leather and the veal hard and black, scarcely eatable save when made the second day into a stew; and to drink, there was soft water flavoured with grape syrup, or dibs; Those large cauliflowers that provoked the wonderment of Horatius Bonar were only in season when the bright bands of Orion had set, and shivering mortals awaited the sweet influence of the Pleiads and returning horn of the Bull. During the conversation that followed no one mentioned Babylon or Rome, but how were Edom and Moab and Gilead, once the seat of war, become with young women the land of romance, there were no grapes comparable to those of Es-Salt, no bridle paths like those of Kerak, no harum-scarum gallop in the moonlight more full of sentiment than a ride to the rock-hewn temples of Petra. At the conclusion of the sociable repast a sleek cat, long-legged, lean and mouse coloured, was seen with wistful eyes and a paw on the table.

There were a pair of foxy dogs, cousins, I should imagine, of the jackals, one brown and the other black, that came of their own accord to guard the lodging house at night with their Barabbas barkings, and I was aroused betimes the following morning by the voice of the black Sophie, who had descended from Olivet with sour milk or leben, and the customary intimation that she would be paid Bad Bukrah, the day after tomorrow. Breakfast over, I sauntered out in the garden on which the diningroom opened. What the tree mustard and gigantic rue of Macherus were no one knew any more than Mathew, Luke and Mark; but in front of the house a so called Pepper Tree, *Schinus molle*, murmured in the wanton air, and on it stood a green, fly-licking chameleon, *Chameleo vulgaris*, which when seized collapsed with the squeal of a crushed cabbage, recalling its Hebrew name of Coach, and became black with terror; its relatives the geckoes, my old companions in the Mauritius, I had missed from the window pane; but presently a manservant arrived from Miss Fitzjohn, the then superintendent of the school for few girls, on whom I had paid a call, with a dessicated specimen; there are those who consider the gecko is the spider of the Scriptures. Behind the Pepper Tree lay a waste of single roses, wild beneath the snows of Lebanon these, I imagine, had been planted here by the catholic proprietor in honour of the Virgin: when summer arrived their leaves became corroded by an orange fungus, which, according to Jerome, who died at Bethlehem, A. D. 420, is the Chasil of the prophet Joel, provided the same prove not to be the blight or a leaf-rolling caterpillar. In Isaiah we read: And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the Chasil, and as the locusts leap shall he leap upon them: and Asaph, the Psalmist, adds respecting the plagues of Egypt: „He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamore trees with frost“, details not found elsewhere. No sycamore tree grew in the garden and I do not know where it exists on the tree-less hills around Jerusalem, the *Ficus sycomorus* is at home among the scorpions beside the dusty way-side at Jericho, where Zaccheus climbed up it: Baal Hanan, the Gederite, in the days of King David, was intrusted with the charge of the olives and sycamores in the low plains.

(to be continued).

# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Societas entomologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 1910

Band/Volume: [25](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Leigh H. S.

Artikel/Article: [A Biological Inquiry into the Nature of Melanism in Amphidasys betularia, Linn., 27-28](#)