

Fig. 13 die Seitenansicht des weiblichen Abdomens mit Legetasche,



Fig. 13.

Die vier letzten Abbildungen sind sich paarweise gegenübergestellt, um den Vorgang der Taschenbildung möglichst anschaulich zu machen. Bei Fig. 11 und 12 ist nach der Trennung der Geschlechter die Tasche zwischen den Valven des ♂ zurückgeblieben. Bei Fig. 13 und 14 ist sie aus den Valven herausgerissen und am Abdomen des ♀ angeheftet.

57. 83:15

The Wonderful Sights of the English Clover Field.

by A. H. Swinton.

All this time the emperor of China whoes dominions were visited with clouds of locusts that obscured the sun was offering up prayers for rain. Around Paris the high roads commenced to swarm with the caterpillars of the gamma Moth, wherever you cast your eye they were to be seen traversing them in all directions and passing from field to field, but their most lamentable ravages were discovered in the kitchen gardens; the peasantry told Reamur they thought a superannuated soldier or ugly old woman had brought them there by enchantment. In consequence herbs were banished from the soup and many were afraid to touch the salad. Renewed excitement arose in the wet 1816 when these moths arose in swarms during october as persons walked over the grass in the northern departments of France: then the European seaboard was drenched with wet as far south as Oporto where a complaint arose as the month drew to a close that the purple grapes were being cut in the rain, half of them had never ripened and it was predicted the comforting bottle of Port wine would be green and colourless. Afterwards in the cold, stormy and wet 1860 the caterpillars of the gamma moth were destructive in Germany.

The reason of the recurring wet years may be discovered in the aspect of the sun, 1816, 1829, 1837 and 1860, according to the late Professor Rudolf Wolf were years of most sun spots; and 1734,

Fig. 14 die des männlichen Abdomens ohne Legetasche.

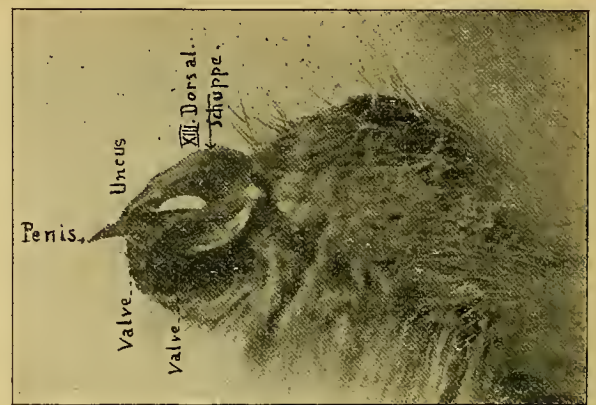


Fig. 14.

1843 and 1878, those of fewest; and at either time our daylight lamp behaves like a flaring electrical one or watch out of order, phaeton appears to relinquish the paternal reins. At first sight it would occur that the caterpillars of the gamma moth had increased during the downpour because the herbs in the fields and gardens were more deliciously juicy, in which case if they fed up the moth would be larger, or it may have been that their enemies were less numerous or less active: kept in captivity with damp food caterpillars are of course attacked by fungus and decimated from epidemics.

The two Clouded Yellow Butterflies, Colias, that visit the sea side clover field in England are familiar objects in Europe, parts of Asia and the north of Africa. In the south of Europe they are to be seen flying about in the spring but in the British Islands they are not much noticed before august: sometimes they vanish and then they reappear, it has been fancied that they lie dormant for one or two years in the chrysalis state or that they die off and a new swarm comes across the channel; it is quite possible their eggs might be introduced into a district with clover seed and this might account for their erratic appearance in the west of Scotland where they are rarely seen. I recall that in the fifties and sixties of the past century when the Netley Hospital was constructed, an edusa was sometimes to be seen flying in hot haste along the seaweed banks that bordered the Southampton Water, but probably owing to the absence of clover fields neither was much talked about at Southampton in my school days so when the gravelly common land at Warsash, long used to pasture donkeys and supply cottagers with peats and firewood, came to be enclosed to grow strawberries for the London market, it was quite a surprise in september 1895 to see one or two edusa at home at Titchfield, the seat of an ancient monastery afterwards the residence of the Earls of Southampton.

to be continued.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Societas entomologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 1913

Band/Volume: [28](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Swinton A. H.

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