

On a new species of *Copris* from Japan.

By George Lewis.

Copris pecuarius, n. sp.

C. lunari affinis, sed major. Niger, nitidus, elytris punctato-striatis, interstitiis subtiliter alutaceis; pygidio sat dense punctato, in medio linea longitudinali laevi subelevata. Long. 23 mm.

This species is closely allied to *Copris lunaris* L. but besides the size it has several well-marked characters to distinguish it. The horn in the ♂ is one third longer and without any notch at the base; the thorax has the elevations more decidedly separated and formed as in *acutidens* Motsch. but less acute. In both sexes the sculpture of the elytral interstices gives an appearance of opacity; the pygidium is somewhat closely punctured and down the centre of it is a smooth well-defined line which is slightly elevated.

I found this species very abundantly in the neighbourhood of Nikko, both in the broader thoroughfares of the village as well as in the elevated mountain-paths where the traffic is entirely carried on with small bullocks. I also found it on the Nakasendo at several places.

In about 60 specimens I have examined there is little variation in size and probably this is owing to the nature of the soil in which my specimens happen to have been found. The soil about Nikko is loamy and somewhat clayey and as such retains moisture much longer than the lighter soils of more sandy districts. I possess a series of *Catharsius ochus* Motsch. from Shimabara, which is situated on a dry sandy area without subsoil, and in these examples the armature of the males is scarcely more conspicuous than in the females, and the specimens are not above two thirds of the bulk of ordinary examples bred in more favorable places. A light porous soil can never long retain much moisture therefore the food for the larvae, even though stored by the parents in cylindrical holes 10 or 12 inches below the surface, soon becomes dry in it, giving the larvae too short a period to accumulate sufficient tissue for full development, before the stercoraceous element becomes dry and unfit for easy assimilation, and thus the larvae are half-starved. I do not say the dry food is the sole cause of this diminutiveness because

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the general dryness of the environment acts of course also on the larvae as well, but not with the same potency, as they are preserved from rapid desiccation by the structure of their outer tegument.

39. High S. Wimbledon. Nov. 1. 1883.

Ueber die ersten Stände einiger Microlepidopteren.

Von Eduard Kreithner in Wien.

Nephoteryx janthinella Hb. Zu Ende des Monats Juli 1882 fand ich bei Mödling an den Wurzeln von *Teucrium montanum* L. ein schlauchartiges Gewebe, welches eine ziemlich bunte Raupe enthielt. Zur Verwandlung verfertigte dieselbe einen ovalen, sehr dichten, schneeweissen Cocon, dem am 27. August der Falter entschlüpfte.

Die Beschreibung der Raupe werde ich bei nächster Gelegenheit nachtragen.

Gelechia scotinella H. S. Beim Untersuchen der reichlich mit Blüten bedeckten Sträucher von *Prunus spinosa* L. nächst Gumpoldskirchen fand ich einzelne von Raupen bewohnte Blüten, welche ich einsammelte; auch bemerkte ich, dass die Raupen, welche namentlich die Fructificationsorgane verzehrten, mehreren Arten angehörten. Anfangs Juni erschienen einige *Argyresthia ephippiella* F. *A. albistria* Hw. und zu meiner Ueberraschung auch 3 Stücke der *Gelechia scotinella* H. S., davon das erste den 12. Juni 1883.

Lita sestertiella H. S. Im Parke zu Schönbrunn waren heuer die Raupen von *Chimatobia brumata* L. an *Crataegus oxyacantha* L. und an *Quercus Cerris* L. auf den Blüten in Menge vorhanden. Auch die Blüten von *Acer campestre* L. waren häufig damit besetzt und befanden sich einzelne Raupen der *Eupithecia inturbata* H. S. (*subciliata* In.) ebenfalls darunter. — Nebenbei bemerkte ich einige versponnene Blüten, welche ich eintrug. Ausser *Anarsia lineatella* Z. erschien den 23. Juni ein ♀ der schönen *Lita sestertiella* H. S. Sowohl ich, als auch Herr v. Hornig hatten den Falter bisher als Seltenheit an den Stämmen älterer Ahornbäume sitzend angetroffen.

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