

which I had put several of the leaves of the tree, and within two days thereafter I was delighted to find that some of them had already attained the perfect state. On their first entrance into this state both males and females are entirely green, but within a few hours afterwards the head and thorax begin to assume a reddish tinge, and the short dark streak on the dorsal margin of the elytra, adjoining the apex of the clavus, becomes more conspicuous. Several times afterwards I observed a male and female sitting with their heads towards each other, and at such a distance that the apices of the antennæ just touched; these they moved slowly up and down, but whether this motion meant anything I had not an opportunity of determining. On what part of the leaf the eggs are deposited, and what peculiarity the leaf assumes, I am still ignorant; these are matters for future investigation. Now for a brief description of the nymph.

The entire creature pale lively green, except the cases containing the elytra, which are pale buff coloured. *Head* angulate in front, and with a stout central longitudinal keel. *Eyes* dark reddish-brown. *Antennæ* pale, the joints indistinctly dark at the apex, except the two terminal ones which are black. *Thorax* pale lively green. *Elytra*-cases pale buff, with the rudiments of the neurulation visible upon them. *Legs* pale green. *Abdomen* pale lively green, somewhat oval, flattish-convex, round the apex some eight or nine short, stout, dark brown hairs. Length, nearly one-eighth of an inch.—JOHN SCOTT, 1, St. Mildred's Terrace, Lee: 8th July, 1878.

*The Natural History of Psylla succincta*.—In the "Sitzungsberichte der k. Akademie der Wissenschaften: Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Classe," xviii Band, 1855, Dr. Ernst Heeger described, as new, *Psylla succincta*, and as (except in Dr. Puton's "Catalogue des Hémiptères," where it is enumerated among the species marked "?") I am not aware that it has since been noticed, I have thought it desirable again to mention it, and to this end transcribe its natural history. The food-plant has long been naturalized in Britain, and it is not improbable that the insect, which seems capable of withstanding considerable hardship, may have been introduced with the rue and be also naturalized with us. At any rate, the account is interesting.

"I found this pretty diminutive creature several times on *Ruta graveolens*, and, without imagining that it was undescribed and only little known, I endeavoured, during the past year, to observe it both in the garden and in the house, and for this purpose I brought several pairs into my room, where they multiplied so much that at the end of the autumn the plant which I had given them to feed on was reduced to a ruinous condition. I left plant and insects in the window of the unheated room for observation after winter was over, and in April following I placed a fresh plant close by, which in a few days was stocked with both larvæ and perfect insects of the *Psylla*.

"The newly developed insects couple in the day-time, and in warm weather remain together for several hours; they always live for several days afterwards, but the males die before the females. The fecundated female, in 4 or 5 days, lays her eggs in the day-time, singly, and by preference on the edges of the leaves, and when these are all occupied, then on the leaf-stalk and green twigs.

"After from 8 to 14 days the wingless larvæ appear; and, sucking a leaf-stalk or young twig, remain stationary up to the time of their first moult, which occurs in from 9 to 12 days, after which they leave their place, having already obtained rudi-



ments of wings ; then, after similar periods, follow the second and third moults, and generally after the last they do not move. They have already attained proportionately large wing-cases, and in the same skin the transformation to the nymph and the development of the perfect insect in a like space of time takes place ; so that about the middle of June the second generation begins.

“ A female in 5 or 6 days lays 30 or 40 eggs, and by the irregular development of larvæ therefrom it happens that in August an extraordinary number of insects, in all stages of existence, are present on a plant, and ruin it. After the second moult the larvæ exude the downy bluish mass, with which an overloaded plant is often entirely covered.”

Then follow the description of the egg, larva, and imago in long detail, illustrated by figures. The size of the perfect insect is not given, but it has the body of vermillion colour, the wings cloudy, with pale brown markings, the antennæ yellow with the joints anteriorly black-brown. The head, which posteriorly is but little narrower than the pronotum, has on the face and posterior part two light yellow dots ; the eyes are dark violet, and the legs are almost sulphur-yellow. If any one should find such a creature on the rue it may presumably be *Psylla succincta*, and in such a case I should be happy to determine if it be the species.—J. W. DOUGLAS, 8, Beaufort Gardens, Lewisham : 18th June, 1878.

*Phylloxera in Scotland*.—Dr. Masters recently sent me a small vine-leaf (from a hot-house in Scotland), which, although scarcely 1½ inch across, has on it about 35 well-marked *Phylloxera*-galls. I have the best of reasons for believing that this pest is proving as destructive in some hot-houses in Britain as it is to the vines of the south of France, &c., grown in the open.—R. McLACHLAN, Lewisham : 16th July, 1878.

*Singular habit of Chrysocorys festaliella*.—I was much startled yesterday with the information that this insect uses its hind-legs much in the same way that *Stathmopoda pedella* and *S. Guerini* use theirs'. Sir Thomas Moncreiffe had had a specimen in a glass-topped box and had watched its movements with great interest for a considerable time. It would rest with its hind-legs stuck out, and then suddenly jerking down its right leg would make a demi-pirouette to the left ; then down would come the left leg and the right being lifted up again, there ensued a demi-pirouette to the right, or it would put down both legs simultaneously and be propelled straight forward. The motions of a *Stathmopoda* are very leisurely, but a *Chrysocorys* is a far more sprightly insect, and the motions are accordingly far more energetic.

The wonder seems to be that such a habit should never have been observed before. Perhaps, but for the existence of glass-topped boxes now-a-days, the habit would still have escaped observation.—H. T. STAINTON, Lewisham : July, 1878.

*Food-plant of Elachista stabilella*.—The grass this species feeds on is *Aira cæspitosa* ; it was so stunted and small when I first found it, on the chalk in the spring, that I did not recognise it. The mined tips of the leaves become yellow, exactly resembling the ordinary decay of the leaf.

The insect seems to me one of the commonest *Elachistæ* round here, and to be out all the season. I find that I have two specimens caught on the limestone near Doncaster.—W. WARREN, 51, Bridge Street, Cambridge : July 9th, 1878.



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Riley C. V. RILEY,  
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THE

ENTOMOLOGIST'S

MONTHLY MAGAZINE:

CONDUCTED BY

J. W. DOUGLAS.

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R. McLACHLAN, F.R.S.

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VOL. XV.

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"I suppose you are an entomologist?"

"Not quite so ambitious as that, sir. I should like to put my eyes on the individual entitled to that name. No man can be truly called an entomologist, sir; the subject is too vast for any single human intelligence to grasp."—  
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES (*The Poet at the Breakfast Table*).

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1878-9.