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10. *C. relictæ*—3rd, 2; 4th, 1; 6th, 8; 7th, 13; 8th, 7; 10th, 42; 13th, 28; 18th, 11; 20th, 17; 22nd, 26; 24th, 43; 27th, 30; 29th, 37; 31st, 34.
11. “ *briseis*—3rd, 1; 6th, 1; 7th, 3; 8th, 1; 10th, 4; 13th, 1; 18th, 3; 22nd, 3; 31st, 2.
12. “ *cerogama*—3rd, 2; 4th, 3; 7th, 6; 8th, 1; 10th, 14. Abundant from 13th to 31st.
13. “ *cara*—3rd, 1; 4th, 1; 7th, 2; 8th, 2; 10th, 7; 13th, 1, 27th, 5; 29th, 1; 30th, 1.
14. “ *amatrix var. nurus*—4th, 1; 6th, 1; 22nd, 1.
15. “ *unijuga*—6th, 1; 7th, 1; 10th, 1; 22nd, 3; 31st, 13.
16. “ *epione*—6th, 1; 10th, 1.
17. “ *praeclara*—6th, 8; 10th, 6; 22nd, 3; 29th, 1.
18. “ *palaeogama*—7th, 1; 13th, 1; 29th, 2.
19. “ *var. phalanga*—7th, 2; 27th, 2.
20. “ *recta*—10th, 2; 13th, 1; 18th, 2; 27th, 4; 29th, 7; 31st, 5.
21. “ *amatrix*—18th, 1.
22. “ *desperata*—18th, 3; 20th, 4.
23. “ *obscura*—20th, 1.
24. “ *subnata*—20th, 1.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE.

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##### WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE FORCEPS IN FORFICULA?

DEAR SIR,—

In looking at the authorities upon this subject, I find that Westwood says “they are weapons of offence and defence,” but he gives no proofs. De Geer tells us “quand quelqu’ autre insect approche du Perceoreille, il tache de le pincer avec cet instrument en courbant le ventra en haut ou vers le côté, *mais sans produire beaucoup d’effet.*” That I can readily believe. Serville says “cette pince lui sert d’arme defensive, *quoique peu redoutable!*” That is also true—*peu redoutable—tres peu!* The consistence of the forceps renders them by no means a formidable weapon. But De Geer also says, “Le male s’approche à reculons de la femelle dont

il tâte le ventre avec sa pince pour rencontrer l'endroit par ou il doit s'unir à elle, &c." This is a more reasonable use of the instrument, but not the only nor most important one.

Last summer I had a good opportunity of observing the habits of this insect, for every night numbers of them came into my study window in the country, and lighted very conveniently upon the table at which I was writing. Each one of them, before he took flight, for they were active, would bend his body back and *lift up the short elytra with his forceps before the wings would expand*, and this they did invariably. They would do this a dozen times in as many minutes, and not one of them ever took flight without performing this manouvre. The forceps were not used to fold the semicircular wings, but only to elevate the wing covers before flying. I have examined a number of writers upon *Forficula*, but not one of them mentions this remarkable fact, which I observed for many consecutive nights, and I have no doubt of the truth of it. This, then, I believe is the real and perhaps only function of the instrument.

JNO. G. MORRIS, Baltimore.

EREBUS ZENOBIA.

DEAR SIR,—

On the night of the 6th of September, 1877, George C. Thomas took near Racine, Wis., a fine male *Erebus zenobia* Cram. On the night of the 15th of September I captured, in similar condition, a female of the same species. So far as I can learn, there is but one other instance of this species being taken in North America. H. Strecker says that one specimen was taken at or near Davenport, Iowa, several years since. The taking of this West Indian species at Racine is but adding another to the numerous instances where Southern forms visit us. I have repeatedly called attention to this peculiarity of the Racine fauna. Southern forms go much further north than they do east of the great lakes; especially is this true of birds and insects.

I send a photograph of the ♂. Expands 5 inch; ♀ 7 inch.

P. A. HOY, M. D., Racine, Wisconsin.

[We are greatly indebted to Dr. Hoy for the photograph of this rare and very interesting insect.—ED. C. E.]

FOOD PLANTS OF *H. MAIA*.

DEAR SIR,

I am reminded by Robert Bunker's remarks on the food plant of *Hemileuca maia* (p. 119 of current volume of CAN. ENT.) that in 1874, in a circular issued from the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Illinois, I wrote the following :

"Our savants in Entomological lore give Oak, Willow and Spiraea as usual food plants for the larvae of *Hemileuca maia*, but here, on or near these spacious marshes [along Calumet River, south of Chicago] these plants are scarcely abundant enough to warrant so numerous an array of the perfect insect. The unavoidable inference, therefore, is that either some other food plant is specially abundant in the locality, or else some other feature of the neighborhood which, perhaps, has hitherto escaped the attention of Entomologists, constitutes to them a strong attraction."

The tract of country alluded to is just such a swampy locality as Mr. Bunker speaks of in his communication. No doubt the list of food plants for these larvae is yet far from complete.

O. S. WESTCOTT, Racine, Wis.

DEAR SIR,—

From among numerous fine captures during this last season I mention the following as being of especial interest to many collectors, as they were taken in the Township of Roselle, New Jersey :

Sept. 1st—*Catocala marmorata, relictæ* and *unijuga*. The former was resting upon a white oak.

The following Sphingidæ in larval form are secured; the first is of exceeding great rarity : *Smerinthus astylus* and *myops*; *Cressonia juglandis*; *Darapsa versicolor*.

GEO. W. PECK, 226 Pearl St., New York.

DEAR SIR,

I would suggest that the "seeming growth" observed by Mr. Aaron on the eye of *P. philenor* is nothing but the pollen of the flowers visited for honey by the butterfly. In this way Darwinists believe that cross-fertilization is effected in many plants, and they show also that such cross-fertilization is beneficial to plants.

A. R. GROTE, Buffalo, N. Y.