

*pennæ*. His published description first appeared in the October number of the CAN. ENT., nearly five months after the publication of "my synoptic tables," as previously pointed out by me, and the points claimed by him are without value.

In order to close a controversy that has already assumed an inconsistent warmth, I now propose for Mr. Howard's genus the name *Chrysoplatycerus*, and the species may in future be known as *Chrysoplatycerus splendens* Howard.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

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#### A FLOCK OF BUTTERFLIES.

*Dear Sir:* While in the interior of New Guinea, in Aug., 1883, I observed what might properly be called a flock of butterflies. They were apparently of one species\* (of a dark brown color, with a blue reflection on the fore wings in a certain light), and in such great numbers as to actually blacken the green bushes on which they lit. I first came across them one day, while out after birds, in a thick and shaded part of the tall forest, in low land adjoining the Laloki river. Being so numerous, I supposed it would be an easy matter to catch all I desired without the aid of a net, but after several unsuccessful attempts, in which case they would rise in a cloud and settle again in a few moments on the bushes close at hand, I was obliged to give it up. They did not seem to be very much disturbed at my approach, but would not, however, allow me to get very near without taking flight. As soon as I remained still, they would immediately settle on bushes and foliage close by, but always out of reach. The flock was, perhaps, two acres in extent, but the butterflies were not equally numerous over this entire area. In some places every bush, branch, twig and leaf seemed to be covered with them, while in others there were comparatively few. What their object was, or how long they remained in that locality, I am unable to say, except that in visiting the place several days afterwards, they were still there in apparently undiminished numbers. I might add none were seen feeding, and, so far as I observed, there were no flowers in bloom anywhere in the vicinity.

S. W. DENTON, Wellesley, Mass.

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\* The name is unknown to me, but I have a specimen of this butterfly which, if returned, I will send to any person who is capable and willing to determine it.

## ARZAMA OBLIQUATA.

*Dear Sir:* The recent communications of Mr. Brehme and Mr. Moffat (CAN. ENT. XX.-119, 130, 180, 238), have revived my interest in the habits of *Arzama Obliquata*, G. and R. At the Minneapolis meeting Entomological Club A. A. A. S. (1883), the habits of the insect were discussed at some length, principally by Dr. Riley and myself. So much of the discussion as the Secretary considered worth printing, may be found in Vol. xv. of the CAN. ENT., pp. 171 and 174. The only difference worth noticing between us was in regard to whether there are two broods annually or one. It was finally agreed that both were correct—quite unusual in matters of this kind! In all probability, about Washington there are two, whilst in Western New York there is but one; if this be so, some of the apparent discrepancies of your correspondents may be cleared up. Mr. Brehme describes the egg, and Dr. Riley the masses of eggs (xv.-171). It would be of interest if Mr. Brehme would communicate the manner of occurrence of the eggs. I have not been so fortunate as to find these bodies, but have followed the quite young larvæ to maturity. I feel sure that it is single brooded in New York and Canada, and that the mature larva in the fall swims to land if necessary (see xv.-174), and crawls into loose earth, or preferably into old wood, or under rubbish where it remains until spring, transforming in May. I have ransacked *Typha* stalks at all seasons for borers, and do not remember to have found this larva, nor have I any notes stating that it was ever found as larva late in autumn or in spring within the stalks, or that it was found to transform in the same. Whatever the habits may be in New Jersey, or at Washington, I have evidence which confirms the correctness of Mr. Moffat's impressions of the habits of the species in his latitude.

Dec. 17, 1888.

D. S. KELLCOTT, Columbus, Ohio.

## PIERIS ILAIRE, GODT.

*Dear Sir:* I wish to record in your valuable journal the capture of *Pieris ilaire* Godt. at Lancaster, N. Y. The accidental occurrence of such southern forms at this northern locality has a certain interest which, I think, will warrant this notice. The present specimen was taken fluttering around a corn field on the 22nd of September, 1880. For about a

week previously warm southerly winds had prevailed with little or no rain, followed by a light frost on the morning of the 21st. At first sight of the butterfly I recognized it as a stranger to our neighbourhood, and with care succeeded in capturing it without further injury, if indeed such were possible, as it was already a woeful looking object, the wings were torn and badly denuded, and the poor creature hardly had the strength to support itself the few yards it attempted to fly. For eight years I have kept this sorry looking treasure hoping some day to learn its name and history, and in this I have at last been successful. Poey gives a good figure of the female in his *Centurie des Lepidopteres de l'Isle de Cuba*, and it is well described by Boisduval in his *Species gen. des Lepidopteres*, vol. 1, p. 491. The present example is a large female with the black border of the wings unusually broad, which variation is mentioned by Boisduval. The most northern habitat that I can find is given in French's *Butterflies of the Eastern United States*, as "Indian River, Florida, Texas and Arizona," but I have had little opportunity for investigating the subject, and it may be a more common visitor in the north than I imagine. Prof. Grote, in his charming paper on the Geographical Distribution of the N. A. Lepidoptera, published in the eighteenth volume of this journal, has given us a very serviceable classification of the origin of the N. A. fauna. Probably *P. ilaire* pertains to the fourth table of his third category (p. 236), at least two of the species there enumerated appear to have been taken here, viz., *Thysania zenobia* and *Brotis vulneraria*. If, however, it breeds continuously in the Southern States, its association with *Erebus odora* in Grote's second table (p. 235) would seem more natural, and would render its occurrence here less surprising.

E. P. VAN DUZEE, Buffalo, N. Y.

The second paper on "Popular and Economic Entomology," which was promised for this number, has been prepared by Mr. Fletcher, but owing to the cuts required for its illustration being in the hands of the printers of the Annual Report at Toronto, it has been found necessary at the last moment to defer it till next month.

Mailed February 9th.