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"In Nature's infinite book of secrecy

A little I can read."

SHAKESPEARE.



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LONDON:

JOHN VAN VOORST, 1, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1879-80.

parently the favourite time. They are very sluggish, particularly the females, and sit still on leaves until touched, and then only dart down to hide themselves. Curiously enough, they seem to sit by preference on any *other* leaf rather than that of *Inula*, a habit which tends greatly to mislead in the search for the larva.

Pembroke: *June 13th*, 1879.

[The discovery of the larval habits of *Acrolepia perlepidella* is of extreme interest, as no one had previously even suspected the correct food plant; several of the genus are attached to Compositæ—thus, *A. cariosella* occurs on *Gnaphalium arenarium*, *A. arnicella* on *Arnica montana*, *A. granitella* on *Inula Helenium* and *dysenterica*, and *A. solidaginis* (which may perhaps be only a southern form of *granitella*) on *Solidago virgaurea* and on *Inula Conyza* (*Conyza squarrosa*), on which last-named plant I met with it at Mentone in March, 1867. *A. arnicella* makes, like *A. perlepidella*, a firm dense cocoon, and, like it, changes within the leaf; but I believe it always mines into a fresh leaf a space just big enough to hold its cocoon, never changing, like *A. perlepidella*, within the leaf in which it has fed up.—H. T. S.]

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*Pimpla instigator*.—Mr. W. H. Harwood, of Colchester, kindly forwarded me some infested pupæ of *Selenia lunaria*, which have revealed very fine specimens of *Pimpla instigator*, F. The larvæ turned to pupæ about April 20th, hatching from the 5th to the 25th of May. Out of from thirty to forty specimens not one has proved a male. This is a somewhat extraordinary occurrence, as those I have caught on the wing have mostly been females. I am retaining a dozen pupæ of *lunaria*, to see if the females (as suggested by Dr. Vollenhoven) will hatch further on: *lunaria* (Mr. Harwood informs me) was feeding in a canvas-covered enclosure, and the ichneumons seemed to have obtained access through the holes of the canvas, and performed their mission in a most deadly manner. I have bred one very interesting variety with yellow stripes across the body. Vollenhoven truly describes *instigator* as a polyphagous insect; I have bred or observed it out of twelve different larvæ. It occurred very commonly on *O. potatoria*.—S. D. BAIRSTOW, Woodland Mount, Huddersfield: *10th June*, 1879.

*Isonychia ferruginea*, *Albarda* (1878), = *I. ignota*, *Walker* (1853).—It was through a mistake on my part that this species was re-named. Walker's type is rather darker than ordinary specimens, and was too imperfect for exact description; and, in addition to this, its habitat was unknown. The species consequently could only be identified by examining the original example. At first inspection, the differences in colour appeared to preclude the identity of the Dutch, French, and German form with Walker's insect (which I conjectured to be indigenous to N. America); but having re-compared them under a more favourable light than before, I perceive the differences to be immaterial.—A. E. EATON, 51, Park Road, Bromley, Kent.—*16th June*, 1879.