

FEMALE OF CROCOTA ROSA, FRENCH.

BY G. H. FRENCH, CARBONDALE, ILL.

In describing this species in Vol. XXII., page 133, of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, I had before me two males, one from Texas and one from Ohio. I have now before me a fine fresh female from Champaign, Ill., the first of this sex I have seen, and I will give here some additional characters of the species. The forewings are fawn, a little darker than in the type, but the latter was evidently a little faded. The hindwings have a few dusky scales in the outer border near the anal angle. On the forewings the veins are a trifle darker than the spaces between the veins, but only from the wing being thicker here. Antennae a shade darker than the forewings; a semi-ring back of the eyes that is red tinted, as also the underside of the palpi; upper side of tibiae a little more red tinted. Abdomen above concolorous with the hindwings, an obscure row of dorsal dusky spots; whole of underside of body concolorous with upper side of forewings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CORRECTION.

Sir,—On page 225, CAN. ENT., 1892, I described a new Bombycid genus, *Melia*. Finding that this name is preoccupied, I have changed it to *Eumelia*, calling the insect proper *Eumelia Danbyi*, Neum.

B. NEUMOEGEN.

HONEY-BEE OR HOUSE-FLY.

Sir,—The November number of your journal contains upon its first and second pages some rather misleading comments on an article of mine in *Science*, of April 29. There was nothing in the article to justify the intimation that I had arranged any insects in a "linear series." The article was in the main a re-statement of Hyatt and Arms's view of the systematic position of the Diptera. To this I added several considerations tending to reinforce their conclusions. I referred to their placing "the Hymenoptera second and the Lepidoptera third," but this does not necessarily imply anything "linear." See their book "Insecta."

So far am I from holding the views imputed to me that I prefer not to regard any of the groups as representing "parallel branches," believing that "we should make an effort to avoid the expression of lineal rank in groups of animals."

I purposely based my conclusions upon anatomy alone, because, as I said, "to introduce the subject of instinct or of usefulness to man, is to confuse our ideas, for we cannot translate the data furnished by such a criterion into terms of the other standard." Judged from that position, it is very much out of the way to assert that "mere specialization is never a test of rank in itself." All that I tried to show was that, anatomically considered, the Diptera are the most highly specialized order.

I trust that it is not out of place to add that the author of one of our principal introductions to entomology, a man whose opinions have as great weight as anyone's in this country, informed his class in entomology last summer that he had come to the conclusion that the Diptera are the highest order. I was so informed by one of his students.

J. M. ALDRICH.

Brookings, South Dakota, Nov. 11, 1892.

NOTES.

MELANCHROIA CEPHISE, HÜBN

The genus *Melanchroia* has been associated in our lists with *Gnophaela* to form a family *Pericopidae*. As a matter of fact it is a veritable geometer, with little more relation to *Gnophaela* than is expressed in the statement that both are Macro-Heterocera! This has, indeed, been recognized in Europe, and Mr. Butler, when identifying my specimens as *M. cephise*, added the remark "belongs to the geometrites".

M. cephise is very common in Kingston, Jamaica, and on Aug. 5, last year, Mr. Bowrey kindly gave me a number of the larvae. These were of the usual form of geometrid larvae, and from them I drew up the following description:—

M. cephise: Larva about 22 mill. long, body smooth, with a few short hairs, which are hardly visible without a glass. Head yellow-brown, the mouth parts dark. Thoracic legs yellow-brown. Abdominal legs tinged yellow-brown. Body pale yellow, with a black ring on each segment, which extends downwards only as far as the infraspicular line (except that on the 4th body segment, which is continuous below). These rings are broad on the 4th to 8th body segments, but rather narrow on the others. There is a longitudinal, narrow black subdorsal line, and a black infraspicular line, which broadens into triangles (which are spotted with white) at the junctions with the black rings. The edges of all these black bands are whitish.

The very young larvae are marked in similar way to those which are mature. The pupa is brown and rather shiny. The moths began to emerge on Aug. 15th.

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