

bably many remaining in pupæ until another summer at least. Such seems likely to be the case with several in my possession, which though lively and apparently healthy show no signs of producing the perfect insects. I have, however, secured enough specimens of both species for those correspondents whom I was unable to supply last year.

Perhaps in a popular magazine I may venture to relate what happened—or rather what did not happen—to me in pursuit of *Dianthæcia casia*, so as to give some idea of the risk which the capture of this insect involves. The place which I found very productive last summer (E. M. M., vol. xiii, p. 143), and naturally sought again, is under a perpendicular, perhaps slightly overhanging, cliff of about 150 feet in height: here the *Silene maritima* clothed the face of the rock, and the air was heavy with the perfume of its flowers. One evening when I went as usual I found the cliff had fallen, and, on the spot where I had stood a few hours previously without a thought of danger, thousands of tons of rock were piled up in wild confusion.

A spice of danger such as the chance of slipping on a ledge of rock which would result in a drop into 20 feet of water, perhaps adds zest to the pleasure of hunting this rock-frequenting moth; but the sudden fall of the cliff itself is a serious possibility.

I have sometimes stopped to watch a beetle crossing the pathway in momentary danger of death from the foot of each passer, and admired his coolness, sometimes helped him out of trouble, sometimes idly waited to see would he run the gauntlet safely, meanwhile pondering on his ignorance of the peril which beset him and on the possibility that we ourselves were in equal danger from unseen destroyers every moment of our lives: surely death's heavy foot trod very near me that day. The spot commands a fine view of Douglas Bay, across which the line of English coast some 60 miles away fringed with mountains is seen. As I turned away from the fallen cliff a rainbow spanned the eastern sky, a mighty painted arch apparently stretching from Snowdon to Helvellyn. What a lovely savage our great mother Nature is. One moment we are awestruck at the reckless use she makes of her gigantic strength, and the next won by the matchless beauty of her smile.

*Eupithecia pulchellata* is only now appearing, and the foxgloves in which it will expect to lay its eggs are mostly out of flower—the larvæ were full-grown last year on 15th July.

*Sesia philanthiformis* has nearly disappeared from the cliffs of Douglas Bay, on which it used a few years ago to be found in great profusion, at least it can only be had by repeating the feat of a well-known entomologist who is said to have swam off to detached rocks where it abounded with his pill-boxes in his mouth, and returned triumphant. I have obtained some on the west coast of the island where it has escaped destruction by being a little out of the track of the Easter and Whitsuntide collectors.

It is sad to think of the reckless extermination of this local insect; the pupæ have been collected and carried away by the hamperful—*cui bono?* I suppose that each of our thousand and one *Lepidopterists* may have a full row of this poor little moth, although it presents no variation of form or colour, and a pair or two answer every scientific purpose.—EDWIN BIRCHALL, Douglas, Isle of Man: July 15th, 1877.

*New British Ant, Ponera ochracea?*—I have taken in the earth in a conservatory here several worker ants which may perhaps turn out to be a new species of *Ponera*. When first I discovered the colony I mistook it for *P. contracta*, which was first detected some time ago by Prof. Westwood, but on forwarding specimens of my insect to Mr. F. Smith, he informed me that it was not *P. contracta*, as that insect has a punctured thorax, whereas in mine it is obliquely wrinkled, and is altogether a

more robust insect than *P. contracta*. Mr. Smith adds that the only insect that agrees with mine in these respects is a female *P. ochracea*, of which the worker is at present unknown, so that till the males and females of my colony appear it will be impossible to determine the species. When I have obtained specimens of them I will send a further account.—R. S. CHARSLEY, St. Giles's Road West, Oxford: *June 26th, 1877.*

*Lopus sulcatus* at Hayling Island.—I found this species commonly by sweeping *Echium*, &c., by the sea-shore last week. It was previously only known as British from specimens caught by Mr. Moncreaff,—without certain locality,—possibly from the same place.—EDWARD SAUNDERS, Wandle Road, Upper Tooting: *July 12th, 1877.*

*Lepyryus corroborated as British*.—I wish to record the capture of *Lepyryus binotatus* sunning itself on Whit-Monday in a sand-pit at Norbiton. I have only recently discovered that it was not *Barynotus*.—G. LEWIS, Queen's-road, Putney: *July 11th, 1877.*

*A Parnus new to Britain*.—Last year Dr. Power gave me some specimens of a *Parnus*, one of which I sent to Herr Kiesenwetter and received an answer at once—"The *Parnus* is certainly *P. striatellus*, Fairmaire, a rare species; we obtain our examples from Paris."—ID.

*Capture of Teretrius picipes*.—Within the last fortnight, I have taken about a dozen specimens of this rare little *Hister*, on the fence on which I took last year, and again this year, *Tillus unifasciatus*. *Teretrius* is, like *Tillus*, only to be found on hot sunny mornings. I generally spend two or three hours every morning, when favourable, watching. *Tillus* is very active, and flies on and off with great rapidity; in private grounds not far off, are some fine old pollard oaks, and which I strongly suspect are the birth-places of both these insects. Of *Xylotrogus brunneus* I have, as yet, only taken one specimen.—SAMUEL STEVENS, "Loanda," Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood: *July 19th, 1877.*

*Sialis fuliginosa* in Worcestershire.—Six specimens in all of this insect have occurred to me: three old specimens without date; one caught flying about a blooming hawthorn, on the 20th May, 1871, near the Teme; and two caught on the 18th June last. This species is readily distinguished in the field from *S. lutaria* by its greater size and blackness.—J. E. FLETCHER, Pitmaston-road, Worcester: *July 6th, 1877.*

*Occurrence of a probably new species of Setodes in England*.—On the 25th September, 1876, Mr. J. B. Hodgkinson, of Preston, kindly sent me a caddis-fly he had caught at Windermere; it was a *Setodes*, of a species unknown to me. The publication of part vi of Mr. McLachlan's "Revision and Synopsis," which includes the genus *Setodes*, enabled me to identify my insect as allied to *Setodes punctata*, F. Unfortunately, it had lost both antennæ, and was otherwise injured before reaching me.—ID.: *June 25th, 1877.*

[I have examined this insect (which is a ♀), and think it will prove to be an undescribed species.—R. McL.]

*Setodes interrupta*, F., in Worcestershire.—It may be of interest to state that this species has occurred on the Severn. I have an old specimen that I caught many years ago from osiers overhanging the river. At the same time and place I saw one or two more.—ID.