

1834
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parts of the continent, where the *S. verii* is found, and therefore cannot be the constant food of that insect.

I remain, &c.

Yours, truly,

CHARLES BLOMER.

24, Burton Crescent, October, 1833.

[We are much obliged for the beautiful drawing which accompanied this communication: we hope to obtain the loan of the perfect insect; if so, we purpose giving a plate of them together.—ED.]

7. *List of a few Insects observed in Devonshire and Cornwall during the Month of September, 1833.*—*Drypta emarginata*; under a stone on the lias, near Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire.—*Cicindela Germanica*; in the same situation.—*Cafius fuciola*; near Plymouth, under sea-weed, with *Cafius lateralis*, in the proportion of one to about fifty.—*Methoca ichneumonoides*; on chalk-marl, and green sand, near Lyme Regis.—*Pentatoma pusillum*, Schäffer; Cornwall.—*Chironomus æstivus*; in a wood near Linton, Devonshire.—*Orphenephila devia*; on damp herbage, growing at the base of the cliffs by the sea-shore at Teignmouth and Sidmouth.—*Drapetis aterrima*; on *fuci* near Penzance, Cornwall.—*Miltogramma punctata*; near the Lizard Point, Cornwall.—*Testanocera marginata*; near Penzance, Cornwall.—*Agonum micans*; near Exeter.—*Tachydromia arenaria* was very abundant near Plymouth and Torquay, running with great rapidity over the rocks, a little above high-water-mark; its wings are very short; and its flight resembles a succession of leaps, each not exceeding two or three inches;—some (perhaps a distinct species) have ample wings; it forms a new genus, nearly allied to *Drapetis*, as Mr. Haliday remarked.—*Platymischus dilatatus* swarms on the rocks, and among the sea-weed, near Plymouth; I found it also near Torquay, but there it was much less common. It moves slowly, like the *Psili*, and varies very much in size. At Torquay it was accompanied by a *Psilus*^a and a *Figites*^b. The former was rather scarce; the

^a *Psilus fucicola*. Mas et Fem. *Ater, nitidus*: antennæ articulo 1^o. basi rufo; maris moniliformes, nod pilosæ; fem. clavata: pedes picei, tibiis tarsisque basi rufis: alæ angustæ, subfuscæ, apice ciliatæ. (Corp. long. $\frac{3}{4}$ —1 lin.; alar. $\frac{3}{4}$ —1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lin.)

^b *Figites subapterus*. Mas et Fem. *Ater, nitidus*: maris antennæ filiformes, corpore longiores; fem. multò breviores, subclavatæ: pedes castanei; femora fusca; protibie apice spina armatæ: alæ perbreves. (Corp. long. $\frac{2}{3}$ —1 lin.)

latter, which was more abundant than the *Platymischus*, runs very fast; and, when touched, contracts its antennæ and legs, and lets itself fall from the rocks. At Plymouth it was much rarer; I saw only one or two specimens.

F. WALKER.

8. *Chrysomela graminis*.—SIR, This insect appears to be double-brooded: I find it in a wet place near this city (Bath), upon the *Mentha hirsuta*, to which plant it appears very strictly to confine itself, in the middle of June and the beginning of September. It is in great plenty at both the above times; but I do not remember finding a single individual during the intervening months. My friend, the Rev. F. Lockey, observes, that in the autumn it feeds upon the flowers of the *Mentha* in preference to the leaves.

C. C. BABINGTON.

9. *Cardiapus Mathewsii*.—I found this insect in great plenty (taking more than forty specimens,) on the *Cistus Helianthemum*, at the top of the Gogmagog Hills, near Cambridge, on the 4th of last July, and also on the same plant, but in smaller quantity, at the Devil's Ditch, Newmarket Heath, on the 2d of that month; at both these places many other specimens were also taken.

Yours, &c.

C. C. BABINGTON.

Bath, Nov. 5, 1833.

10. *Ignis Fatuus*.—The supposition, that the *Ignis fatuus* is caused by the light emitted by some insect has, I believe, among scientific men, long yielded to the known fact, that it is merely the combustion of gaseous matter. In a very interesting paper upon this subject in a former number of your Magazine, the facts and experiments related prove this latter theory beyond doubt; but the writer leaves us in the dark as to the nature of the gas to which the phenomenon is attributable.

This gas, however, I believe, is generally supposed to be phosphuretted hydrogen, a combination of phosphorus and hydrogen gas, which spontaneously ignites upon coming in contact with atmospheric air. Should any of your readers feel inclined to illustrate this by actual experiment, or to view