

during the past season. Some Grasshoppers taken in Dovedale and identified by Mr. W. J. Lucas proved to be *Onocestus vividulus*, *Gomphocerus maculatus* and *Stauroderus bicolor*. Mr. Martin Mosely is still investigating the Neuroptera and Trichoptera of our Derbyshire streams. The results for the R. Dove have now been fairly thoroughly worked out, but material is much wanted from the Derwent and its tributaries, and we shall be glad to hear from anyone who is willing to collect river flies from this part of the county.]

#### LEPIDOPTERA.

*A few notes on collecting Macro-Lepidoptera at Repton, 1911.*

BY H. C. HAYWARD, M.A.

After the amazing abundance last year of the larvæ of such species as *Pedaria*, it might have been expected that the imagines would have been in unusual numbers this year. On the contrary, they were unusually scarce and mostly of small size. No doubt vast numbers of the larvæ were partially or altogether starved. After the complete defoliation of the trees last May, it was a common sight to see these larvæ apparently feeding on brake-fern or grass. In late May large numbers of larvæ and pupæ of *Cynipiformis* were obtained in Repton Shrubs from oak stumps where the trees had been cut down two years previously. Noctuid larvæ were commoner than usual in the woods at night, *Baia*, *Brunnea*, *Triangulum*, *Festiva*, *Fimbria*, *Ianthina*, *Nebulosa*, etc., all being taken in some numbers. But the feature of the month was the abundance of larvæ of *Glareosa*, feeding on wild hyacinth. These were to be taken in hundreds. Wild hyacinth also seemed to be the favourite food of *Rubricosa*, which was very common in the wood. Amongst other larvæ taken at this time were *Flavicornis* and *Scolopacina*. In early June larvæ of *Cervinaria* were taken freely on Mallow, accompanied by *Tragopogonis*, and later in the month larvæ of *Cucubali* were found to be abundant in seed-pods of *Flos-Cuculi*, upwards of forty being taken in one osier-bed. Amongst other captures a

fine variety of *Costovata Fluctuata* may be mentioned, as this is commonly regarded as a strictly southern form. *Albicillaria* was again taken in Repton Shrubs, where it had not been observed for some years. Over flowers *Pulchrina* and *Tripartita* accompanied the usual swarms of *Iota*, *Chrysitis* and *Triplasia*, but sugar proved singularly unattractive. In early July several specimens of *Bembeciformis* were taken in osier-beds flying in the afternoon sunshine. Larvæ of *Carpophaga* and *Venosata* were obtained from *Silene Inflata* in company with *Cucubali* and the ubiquitous *Capsincola*. A specimen of *Oblongata* was taken flying at dusk, and the larvæ of this species have since been obtained in abundance from ragwort, yarrow, and even angelica. This is a little curious, as the species had not previously been observed here, although the same plants had been searched for Eupitheciid larvæ in former years. The most remarkable capture of the year was that of a fine specimen of *Abietaria* in a Repton garden, flying at dusk amongst yew trees. This species is of such an exclusively southern distribution, and usually so confined to dense woods, that the escape of a bred specimen was naturally suspected, but no possibility of this could be traced. It is possible that the larva was introduced on some shrub recently brought from the south, but the yews amongst which it was taken are all old trees; it remains to be seen whether they will yield larvæ next spring. The season was peculiar also in what it failed to produce: for example, *Crepuscularia*, usually very common in Repton Shrubs, was decidedly scarce, and not a single specimen was taken of *Bajularia*, *Rubiginata*, *Umbratica*, *Moneta*, or *Imitaria*, all of which are usually to be relied upon and were carefully worked for. The various larvæ that are usually to be obtained in late September and early October in Repton Shrubs seem to be very scarce this year, but that may be due to the fact that they have fed up earlier than usual in the warm season. More success has attended a week's campaign in search of Eupitheciid larvæ. Besides the *Oblongata* already mentioned, a few *Linariata* have been obtained, and considerable numbers of *Absinthiata*

on ragwort, *Assimilata* on wild hop, *Albipunctata* and *Trisignaria* on angelica, and *Subfulvata* on yarrow. Even this fine summer has not apparently produced any marked increase in the deplorably small numbers of our local butterflies, except that *Phlæas* has been unusually abundant. One specimen of the now rare *Io* was observed, but *Atalanta* and *Urticæ*, our only reliable *Vanessids*, were only noticed in very small numbers, and the larvæ of *W.-Album* were not to be obtained in their usual haunts.