

1867. He mentioned that though the moths were greedily eaten by fowls and other birds, the larvæ, though not hairy, were rejected; and that when *Ailanthus* leaves were not procurable the larvæ had been found by Captain Hutton to thrive on honeysuckle. The moths of *B. Cynthia* were subject to considerable variation in size and coloration. He had invariably found that at the commencement of the hatching out of a brood the males greatly outnumbered the females, whilst at the end the reverse was the case: he argued that in proportion as the individual was finer the time required for its metamorphosis was longer; hence in general the female, which was the larger and heavier insect, was preceded by the male, which was smaller and had less to mature. He thought *Bombyx Guerinii* and *B. Ricini* were probably only varieties or local forms of *B. Cynthia*. Lastly, Dr. Wallace mentioned that he had frequently observed a sound to proceed from the eggs of *B. Cynthia*, "a sort of click, a single sound, generally in the second week," which was attributed to "the parchment-like shell being pressed out with a spring by the effort of the larva within, and returning to its concave form."

Mr. F. Moore exhibited *Bombyx Guerinii*, of which only three or four specimens were known, and *Bombyx Ricini*, with its cocoons and silk, for comparison with the produce of Dr. Wallace's *Ailanthery*.

Mr. Alfred R. Wallace remarked that Dr. Wallace's theory on the relation between the size of the specimen and the period of development satisfactorily accounted for the fact that as a rule in *Lepidoptera* the male was smaller than the female. Owing to the precarious tenure of life of a *Lepidopterous* insect, which was not only exposed to the attacks of many enemies, but was also liable to destruction from mere change of temperature, it was important that the female should be impregnated almost as soon as hatched, and therefore that males should be in readiness at the time of her emergence. The males which first hatched became the parents of the future progeny; the progeny inherited the qualities of the parent; and thus in process of time the males which had a tendency to early hatching, the small specimens which required a shorter period for their development, predominated, while those which hatched later, the larger males, being without mates and therefore leaving no offspring, would constantly tend towards extinction, and finally leave the smaller males in possession of the field.

Mr. Janson exhibited a collection of *Coleoptera* from Vancouver's Island, amongst which Mr. Pascoe pointed out some fine *Longicornes*, a form resembling the Australian *Hesthesis*, *Plectrura*, *Purpuricenus*, *Exops*, &c.

Mr. C. A. Wilson, of Adelaide, South Australia, communicated the following notes on *Cerapterus Macleayi* and *Calosoma Curtisii*:—

"*Cerapterus Macleayi*.—Of the genus *Cerapterus* we have three species in this colony, *C. Wilsoni*, *C. Macleayi* and *C. Hopei*. The first of these is much the most rare, and from twice to three times the size of the others. Some years ago *C. Macleayi* was found frequently between the town (Adelaide) and the sea, at about two miles from the former and five from the latter, and always under dry cow-dung: after this, on nearing the sea, or rather gulf (St. Vincent), it gave place to *C. Hopei*. It has also been taken around Gawler under the same circumstances, that is, on land never yet turned up, where cattle, horses, &c., have long grazed, and under cow-dung of a particular age or state of dryness—dropped some days, but before all moisture had