

that *Rhipiphorus* is a larvivorous parasite, and not a mere guest which enters the nest of the wasp and shares the food of the legitimate occupants.

Mr. Pascoe exhibited some Australian Heteromera, including new species of *Helæus*, *Byrsax*, *Seirotana*, &c., and two new genera. One species of *Saragus* (undescribed, and for which the name *S. floccosus* was proposed), was remarkable from being covered with a peculiar fungoid growth, which was said by the captor to occur on the living insect, and also (or a similar growth) on the trees which the beetle frequented. This growth had been examined by Mr. Currey, and was pronounced to be truly fungous, in fact an *Isaria*, the early stage of a *Sphæria*. Several specimens of the *Saragus* had been seen, all with the *Isaria* in the same stage of development.

Mr. Wallace enquired whether the supposed fungus had been microscopically examined, as it seemed highly improbable that a living animal should habitually have a living vegetable growing on it. More probably, if it really existed during the life of the beetle, it was a natural animal growth: an allied species has a hairy covering, and it was but one step further for a hairy covering to assume a fungoid appearance, a protective resemblance to the fungi or lichens growing on the trees upon which the beetle was found.

Mr. Albert Müller made some observations on the scent, when handled, of *Cynips lignicola* and another species which forms a gall on the under-side of oak-leaves: this scent was probably protective, and gave the insect an immunity from the attacks of birds, &c., and the rapid spread of *Cynips lignicola* over the country might be due to its rejection on account of its peculiar odour.

Mr. J. Jenner Weir added that the musk beetle was free from attack by birds, and this was doubtless due to its scent.

Mr. Salvin exhibited six species of *Clothilda*, in illustration of the paper mentioned below.

Mr. Briggs (who was present as a Visitor) exhibited a specimen of *Deiopeia pulchella*, captured near Folkestone on the 1st of October: its habit was to fly only a few yards at a time, and its appearance on the wing was described as resembling one of the *Geometræ*.

Mr. Davis (who was present as a Visitor) exhibited a large number of preserved larvæ of *Lepidoptera*; amongst them a series of *Cossus ligniperda*, of all ages, in willow-stems, preserved *in situ*; and a larva of *Sphinx populi* to which were attached a number of pupæ of some parasite. There were also a few dried larvæ of saw-flies.

Mr. Dunning referred to the swarms of insects of various kinds which had been reported during the autumn: he had himself encountered hosts of *Coccinellæ* (principally *C. 7-punctata*, but intermixed with a considerable number of *C. bipunctata*) both in Essex and in Yorkshire; and at Walton-on-the-Naze, on the 24th of August, he fell in with a countless swarm of *Syrphi*, which appeared to have all hatched simultaneously and to have at once commenced buzzing about in the hot sunshine in a foolish kind of way, without caring to take food, for most of them seemed to be mere shells without any substance inside. Noticing that Mr. Horne had recorded (*Newman's Entomologist*, iv. 356) the occurrence of a swarm at Margate on the same day, which was said to have included specimens of *Syrphus balteatus*, *S. decorus*, *S. tæniatus*, *S. topiarius* and *Eristalis tenax*?, Mr. Dunning placed in the hands of