

been unknown, and no record of them made. It occurred to me, therefore, that a brief statement might be interesting.

The eggs are laid, not in the ground, but on the surface of the ground, and preferably under some shelter, as a stone or a piece of wood. In the vivarium pieces of crockeryware have been made use of. In nature the shade afforded by the dense, more or less recumbent foliage of *Yucca filamentosa* doubtless furnishes a desirable situation. The eggs are laid in clusters, some of them as large as an ordinary pea. They are very pale yellowish, almost white, highly polished and faintly rugose. They are nearly globular, or but very slightly ovoid. I have counted over 300 eggs in a single mass, and each egg measures 0.25 mm. in length and 0.27 in diameter. The newly hatched larva is pure white but otherwise has the same form and general appearance as when full grown.

THE SPECIES OF MAMESTRA.

BY A. R. GROTE, A. M.

By favour of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, I have received a copy of the "Revision of the species of *Mamestra* by John B. Smith, Professor of Entomology, Rutgers College, Washington, 1891". There are one or two points only upon which I desire here to comment. As a whole the determinations agree with my own. The genus *Dianthoecia* is merged with *Mamestra*, as I at one time proposed from the variability in the same species of the ovipositor. But, as I pointed out in my last Check List, p. 13, the characters of *Dianthoecia*, Bdv., are taken from the habit of the larva, the button-like termination of the wing cases in the chrysalis and the extended ovipositor in the moth. The American forms have been only incompletely studied for these characters. The genus is universally adopted in Europe, and our "cabinet opinions" will doubtless be modified when we come to know the preparatory stages of our species.

So far as the Revision is concerned, I may discuss the following synonymical points. And first, on page 218, my *M. vittula* is very fully described from my type, shown to the author of the Revision by Prof. Snow. Yet, on page 268, this same species is stated to be "unknown", and is further unfavourably commented on as too near to *q-lineata*, while on page 219 the type is said to be "much more nearly allied to *capsularis*