

as before stated, had died at its post, where it was held by the inserted ovipositor.

Here, unfortunately, our observations end, and we can only form conjectures as to the life of the larvæ. Provancher remarks of the genus that, "Their larvæ live as parasites in the body of other larvæ;" and with reference to *ensiger*, he says: "We have frequently met this insect in company of Braconids, upon trunks of dead fir-trees, searching without doubt to deposit its eggs in the body of lignivorous larvæ." His authority for the first statement is not given, but probably he has accepted the conjecture of some European Entomologist.

Prof. Riley has demonstrated, in the case of *Thalessa*, how unsafe it is to accept conjecture as fact, however probable it may seem. Still, in the absence of a complete knowledge of an insect's life, one must often fill in by conjecture the missing links, and wait for further investigations to prove their value. As regards *Ibalia maculipennis*, there are two ways in which the larvæ may live, viz., either directly upon the dead, or decaying woody tissues of the tree, or in or upon the bodies of larvæ which do so subsist.

The former course seems less probable, and I am inclined to think with those who believe that it is parasitic upon lignivorous larvæ. What species, then, is it likely to be parasitic upon? The maple trees upon which it occurs are badly infested by *Tremex columba*, *Xiphydria albicornis* and *Dicerca divaricata*, and in a less degree by other insects. The beech trees are also infested by the *Tremex* and *Dicerca*, and like the maples are much frequented by *Thalessa*. Is *Ibalia* parasitic upon its Hymenopterous (closely connected) relatives, or upon the Coleoptera?

Now that its time and place of occurrence are known, I hope that its history may soon be worked out in full. Its season of appearance is apparently brief, as all the specimens from this locality have been taken in June—the earliest upon the 10th, and the latest on the 28th. The insect might thus readily escape notice, even when not rare, as they are by no means conspicuous, either when ovipositing or crawling upon the rough trunks they frequent. But, if systematically searched for during the month of June upon old trees, they would probably be found by many of our entomologists.

While not abundant, these insects cannot be classed as especially rare, for besides the specimens mentioned in this note, I have seen several which