

tufts of raised scales, which are very likely to be removed in the attempt to mount them; and frequently the distinguishing specific characters are to be found either on the extreme margins of the wings, or in the apical ciliæ, just where they are most likely to be removed or injured in pinning; the thorax, of course, is destroyed in small species. It is therefore best to make very careful observations before attempting to pin a "Micro." If a species is very rare, so that I desire to keep the specimen, I should want it pinned and spread; but if it was unique and small I should not run the risk. And when one keeps a cabinet of pretty curiosities, of course they are best pinned and spread. But for the purpose alone of scientific study or description, I would prefer the untouched insect, and except for the preservation of types, would deem pinning unnecessary.

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NOTES ON HYBERNATING BUTTERFLIES.

In No. 4, Vol. 7, of *Psyche*, Mr. Scudder gives some notes on early spring butterflies at the White Mountains, noticed during June 2nd to 5th. Speaking of *Vanessa F-album*, he says: "One or two specimens only were seen on the 4th, apparently just out of winter quarters; they appear later I believe than other hibernating *Praefecti*, and those seen were on the sunny side of a barn which had probably served as their winter refuge."

In this locality, as elsewhere, *V. antiopa* is the first butterfly seen in spring, but as far as my experience goes, *F-album* appears as early as *milberti* and the *Graptas*; I am not sure about *P. cardui* and *huntera*. Referring to my note book, I find the following dates for *F-album*: April 18th, 1874, one specimen observed; April 26th, 1874, a pair taken in *coitu*; May 14th, 1876—cold, late spring—a specimen taken at willow blossoms. *Antiopa* makes its appearance here as soon as the snow has melted off sheltered spots on the south-western slopes of Montreal Mountain. The earliest record I have of its appearance is April 4th, 1875; on that date I saw a specimen on the wing and found two others under a stone. *Antiopa* can be found under stones, on dry sunny slopes with scattered trees, every spring, but I never met with any other species in its winter quarters. Do they hibernate in places less exposed to the influence of the early spring sunshine? If so, may not this account for their appearing a week or two later than *antiopa*?

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