

FURTHER NOTES ON CHIONOBAS JUTTA.

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Our President has asked me what methods I adopted for the raising of *C. jutta* from the egg. I will endeavour to describe them.

As it is well known that larvæ of the genus *Chionobas* feed on grasses, my first care was to determine what grasses were to be found in the haunts of *Jutta*, and to notice the circumstances under which they grew. I found several, all rooted in the sphagnum of the swamp. I took home roots of every kind, and potted them in sphagnum, being careful to close the hole in the bottom of each flower pot with a cork, and to soak the plants thoroughly with rain water. I soon had a number of thriving plants. I placed the pots containing these—so near together that some of the blades of every plant intermingled with blades of the rest—in a box of convenient size; and I filled up the interstices, to the level of the rims of the pots, with sphagnum. I then made a slight, arched lattice over the top of the box, and stretched a piece of green netting over it. My cage was then ready. When *Jutta* was pretty well worn, *i. e.*, about the 12th of June, I captured two or three females, and placed them in my cage. On the 17th of that month I found a number of eggs, not laid on the blades of grass, but scattered over the netting. When the larvæ appeared, I placed, by means of a camel's hair pencil, a few of them on each plant; but I soon found that they congregated on the sedge. This then, I concluded, was their favourite food-plant. I kept the cage on the seat of an open window with a north-western aspect; and, whenever it rained I removed the covering of the box, and let the insects have the benefit of the shower. In dry times I occasionally sprinkled them at sunset with soft water.

In August I noticed that my insects were seriously decreasing in number. As their habits were unknown I thought it possible that the vanished specimens had buried themselves in the sphagnum, and would in due time again appear; but a wounded larva, that had evidently been nipped by a foe, at length aroused my suspicions. I procured fresh plants of sedge, placed upon them all the larvæ I could find, and then spread a large sheet of paper, and upon it pulled all the old bedding to pieces. The result was that I found, not the lost larvæ, but several very well grown specimens of *Lithobius Americanus*. I consider this creature therefore a