

from the liability of the mind to class everything green in the woods as belonging to vegetation, or, in other words, from our inherent tendency to place animals or locomotive beings as different in color from plants. When, as is often the case, they are alighted on sandy banks in or near the woods, the effect is similar; the surrounding greenness makes them difficult of detection here, as well as in other spots, even away from woods, where they may be side by side with vegetation. The momentary invisibility which the insect therefore possesses gives it a chance to escape, if it chooses to make use of this chance. But as long as everything remains quiet it seldom flies, trusting rather for protection to its habit of remaining perfectly motionless, combined with its similarity in color with surroundings. In the natural state man is not its enemy, but its assimilative coloration probably protects it in a great degree from its many known enemies among the birds and reptiles.

A fine and rare English species, *germanica* Linn., which is said to frequent most a certain favored locality in the Isle of Wight (Black Gaug Chine), unlike most of the genus, prefers wet to dry places, and has a liking for brackish marshes.* It is of a beautiful rich green, and thus is enabled to escape observation amid the vegetation which thrives in such places.

Of the other class, our most common species, *vulgaris* Say, is as nearly invisible as an insect can well become by assimilation in color with its surroundings. It is only the practiced eye that can distinguish it from the soil or sand upon which it alights; for, in either case, those parts of a different color from the surface upon which the insect is resting will be mistaken for particles of foreign matter, giving the eye no chance to rest upon form. I have often, before I became used to the practice, looked most carefully for a long time when I had distinctly seen a specimen of this species alight, but without being able to distinguish it until it moved.

A southern species, *tortuosa* Dej., which I have taken in Louisiana, has very little of the lighter markings upon it, but is nearly all of the sombre shade of the sandy mud flats over which it runs and flies.

A fine western species, which I have taken in Kansas on the sand-bars of the Kansas River, at Lawrence, during low water in the summer months, is *macra* Lec. In this the markings have united so as to form an etched border to the elytra of just the light color of the fine sand of

* Rye, British Beetles, p. 47-48.