

offered proof to show that among the British lepidoptera the darkest forms are commonest in the more humid parts of England. Given an excitant cause, he shows that as moisture in the atmosphere tends to darken the soil, trees and other natural objects, natural selection would, if not interfered with by opposing forces, tend to perpetuate the melanic forms. This line of thought has suggested to me the desirability of making some inquiries regarding the climatic conditions of the different regions from which my own specimens come. A request for figures stating average annual precipitation has at once been acceded to by Prof. Mark. W. Harrington, Chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has kindly sent me the appended statistics:—

Annual precipitation at Albuquerque, New Mex.,	7.19 in.	May to Oct ,	5.42 in.
“ “ Helena, Montana,	13.22 in.	“ “	7.90 in.
“ “ Flagstaff, Arizona,	25.95 in.	“ “	9.12 in.
“ “ Prescott, Arizona,	17.06 in.	“ “	8.50 in.

In most of these cases the observations have extended over a number of years, but the record for Flagstaff, Ariz, has been kept for only seventeen months, and Prof. Harrington writes me that it may be too high an average. My object in getting the figures for the months of May to October (inclusive) is this: If the action of moisture on the colours of insects be purely physiological, it would act chiefly, no doubt, while the insect was growing,—that is, through the active part of the larval stage, extending through the warmer months of the year; if, on the other hand, it acts indirectly by bringing the tints of the insect, through the work of natural selection, more closely in harmony with the darker colours with which this wet weather would surround it, it must nevertheless act during these same months.

While my paper does not deal exclusively with any one species, those treated of are closely allied, and on this ground it may prove profitable to make a few comparisons.

Fifty specimens of *C. longipennis* from the driest of these points—Albuquerque, New Mexico—show thirty-two males, none of which have more than a very slender line of black along the suture, and eighteen females, most of them coloured like *h*, several as light as *h*, and only one as dark as *b*. *C. testaceus*, from the dry regions of Southern California, is also notable from its lack of black markings. I found *C. longipennis* abundant upon golden-rods (*Solidago*), which had a very solid head of