

I purposely based my conclusions upon anatomy alone, because, as I said, "to introduce the subject of instinct or of usefulness to man, is to confuse our ideas, for we cannot translate the data furnished by such a criterion into terms of the other standard." Judged from that position, it is very much out of the way to assert that "mere specialization is never a test of rank in itself." All that I tried to show was that, anatomically considered, the Diptera are the most highly specialized order.

I trust that it is not out of place to add that the author of one of our principal introductions to entomology, a man whose opinions have as great weight as anyone's in this country, informed his class in entomology last summer that he had come to the conclusion that the Diptera are the highest order. I was so informed by one of his students.

J. M. ALDRICH.

Brookings, South Dakota, Nov. 11, 1892.

#### NOTES.

##### MELANCHROIA CEPHISE, HÜBN

The genus *Melanchroia* has been associated in our lists with *Gnophaela* to form a family *Pericopidae*. As a matter of fact it is a veritable geometer, with little more relation to *Gnophaela* than is expressed in the statement that both are Macro-Heterocera! This has, indeed, been recognized in Europe, and Mr. Butler, when identifying my specimens as *M. cephise*, added the remark "belongs to the geometrites".

*M. cephise* is very common in Kingston, Jamaica, and on Aug. 5, last year, Mr. Bowrey kindly gave me a number of the larvae. These were of the usual form of geometrid larvae, and from them I drew up the following description:—

*M. cephise*: Larva about 23 mill. long, body smooth, with a few short hairs, which are hardly visible without a glass. Head yellow-brown, the mouth parts dark. Thoracic legs yellow-brown. Abdominal legs tinged yellow-brown. Body pale yellow, with a black ring on each segment, which extends downwards only as far as the infraspicular line (except that on the 4th body segment, which is continuous below). These rings are broad on the 4th to 8th body segments, but rather narrow on the others. There is a longitudinal, narrow black subdorsal line, and a black infraspicular line, which broadens into triangles (which are spotted with white) at the junctions with the black rings. The edges of all these black bands are whitish.

The very young larvae are marked in similar way to those which are mature. The pupa is brown and rather shiny. The moths began to emerge on Aug. 15th.

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