

artificial fly will answer on the Black River; the hooks need not be larger than No. 5 or 6, and two flies will suffice on a cast. Parties wishing to visit this mountain lake region to camp in June or July will have to take warm clothing, as the nights are generally cold. A description of the lakes and streams springing from the rocky mountains of the Assomption and Black River is new to sportsmen. Both of these rivers drain the great Laurentian lakes north of Montreal. Many gentlemen who spend their holidays in pleasure of this nature, never heard of this grand mountain camping-ground. They generally visit the seaside, where, in many places, good brook trout fishing can not easily be obtained. Sometimes they have to go as far from the coast to brooks and lakes, as it is from Montreal to the Black River.

## Entomology.

### THE MILK PLANT.

WHY ARE ITS INSECT PARASITES RED AND BLACK IN COLOUR?—BY THE EDITOR.

Mimicry is remarkable in species belonging to almost all Orders of Insects. It is also well defined in some of the reptiles, in the flower-frequenting spiders, and some species of Lepidoptera. With the exception of the common Tree Frog, (*Hyla versicolor*), which has the power of imitating the bark color of the tree it rests on; the spiders belonging to the Genus *Thomisida*, the bodies of which are imitative of the colors of the flowers in which they hide, little is known of the cause of certain insects that are parasites on plants, and which retain colors almost similar to each other. That the provision of the reptile and spider with this power of mimicry is in order to secure their food, is considered a strategy of nature. The tree frog is an arboreal animal, which can change its color to suit almost any place. The spider, in like manner lies like a wolf imbedded in the flower, preferring, in the neighborhood of Montreal, either white or pink and white,

wherein, with its fore feet erect, it is ready to pounce on any unlucky insect coming within its reach. These instances are understood by the watchful student of nature. What is wished to be inquired into, is the cause of a number of insects occurring evidently as parasites on a single plant, and all the insects having a pre-dominating color, either red or black. This study is certainly interesting, and it has led to these remarks, from the fact that the occurrence have frequently been noticed on the common Milk Weed (*Asclepias*). Why are all, and there are quite a number of insects of different Orders, which frequent or feed on the plant during summer, red and black, or entirely red in color? A coleopterous insect (*Tetraopes tetraophthalmus*) is totally red above, with black elytral spots. Another coleopterous beetle, *Labidomera trimaculata*; elytra, red and black. The two latter feed on the plant. An insect of the order Hemiptera, occurs common on the Milk Plant in June. It is blood red in its early stages; indeed on several occasions last year, the above beetles and their larvæ in company with the red Hemipterous bug crowded the plant, and the contrast between the downy green leaves blending with the red and black colours of the insects was what led to this inquiry. Every entomologist knows the butterfly (*Danaïa archippus*), also red and black, in the imago form, whose caterpillar feeds on the Milk Plant. There are doubtless other parasitic insects which may have been overlooked. When the plant is in flower, it is an excellent one for the entomologist to visit—even at night it attracts a few rare moths. Lastly, it may here be remarked, that a Dipterous, or two-winged fly (*Tachina*)—having a red body, covered with hair, is fond of sucking the flowers in daytime. There are some profound inquiries to be made in relation to the above insects and their connection in regard to color, with the plant as food. The larvæ of the archippus butterfly has no red colour, but the imago has it abundantly. In the transformation of *L. trimaculata*, its lar-