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NEW HISTORIES IN HYDRÆCIA.

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(Continued from Vol. XXVII., page 283.)

Continuing under this heading, the writer would offer a few remarks subservient to a fuller knowledge of the early stages of this genus, which may be considered supplementary to some former papers that have appeared. There is some discussion at present in the current literature as to whether the term *Gortyna*, Och., should not replace *Hydræcia*, Gn., and it is to be hoped definite conclusions may be reached and the proper one fully established. The following early histories are perhaps unknown, or at any rate remain as yet unpublished.

Hydræcia inquesita, G. & R.

This is such a widely-diffused and familiarly-known species that it makes it gratifying to expose some traits of its earlier existence. So general was the poor condition of practically all examples previously seen, that the notion of its being a thin-scaled and ill-marked species had gained quite a hold on the writer. With the specimens bred last season, some light has dawned in the matter, and he would hasten to make amends in behalf of such erroneous impressions. For with conditions right, specimens, rich in a full complement of scales and attractive in their warm, red-brown colouring, were plentifully obtained. In making a choice of food-plant, the larva takes an unusual departure and makes a selection among the Cryptogamous plants, namely, *Onoclea sensibilis*, Linn. One would hardly think of associating these borers with a delicate fern, and, as may be expected, it is the roots which serve as a domicile. These latter are a bit peculiar, at least to a novice in botany. Growing slightly below and parallel to the surface, a principal root-stock creeps with rapidity, sending up fronds at various intervals. Its advancing end is green and soft, and it is to this point that the larva extends its burrow, though free access is kept up to the original entrance. An exceedingly dense growth of tough, hairy rootlets, which resembles the curled hair used by upholsterers, draws nourishment for the plant. By the time the larva has reached maturity, the part of