

Phyciodes *Tharos* eats any sort of Aster, and so will *Melitæa Harrisii*. I had larvæ of *Eresia Texana* sent me from Texas, and offering them Aster, they took to it forthwith. *Mel. Chalcedon*, in California, feeds on Penstemon, Scrophularia, etc., but larvæ sent me readily eat the leaves of *Chelone glabra*, on which *M. Phaeton* feeds here. So, in case of doubt, it is best to try such plants as allied species feed on. What these are may be learned from the books, in many cases. Mr. Scudder, in 1869, drew up a list of food plants of butterflies, for the American Naturalist, and I have very often had occasion to refer to it. So, the same author, in "Butterflies," 1881, gives a list. Scattered through the volumes of the CAN. ENT. is much information of the same character.* Sometimes there is no clue, and more or less experimenting is necessary. In CAN. ENT., vii., 161, 1875, Mr. Mead relates his discovery of the food-plant of *P. Tharos*, "which had baffled all my endeavors for the past four or five years, during which I have tried a great number of plants without avail." He relates that he prepared a large box by filling it partly with earth, and transplanting into it specimens of all the common compositæ he could find. The box was covered with gauze and about a dozen females of this butterfly were introduced. "In a few days I examined the leaves and found six patches of eggs upon one of the plants. The plant proved to be a species of Aster." Then he transferred some of the females to a box containing Asters only, and further eggs were obtained. After that, I bred *Tharos* by hundreds, one season after another, and got at its complete life-history.

In 1881, I received from Arizona several eggs and just hatched larvæ of *Lemonias Nais*. The eggs had been laid on Mesquit, and I had no idea what they would eat here. But quite a number of sorts of leaves were given them, among them peach, cherry, wild plum, and after nearly all the larvæ had died from starvation, it was found that the survivors were eating the plum. So of the larvæ received I was able to get one example to pupa and imago on plum. Mr. Scudder wrote me: "You have filled one of the greatest voids in our knowledge of the biology of butterflies," as little or nothing had till now been known of the history of any species of the *Lemoniadæ*.

Some species eat but a single plant, or sub-group of plants, as *P. ajax*,

* As soon as I can find time, I will draw up a new list of the food-plants of butterflies, and send to the CAN. ENT., and I should be glad to receive information from any one who has any knowledge of this matter.