

LIFE-HISTORY OF MARGARODES FLEGIA, CR.

BY HARRISON G. DYAR, WASHINGTON, D. C.

This West Indian Pyralid occurred to me on the cemetery grounds in Key West, Florida. The larva was destructive to a large bush (*Thevetia nerifolia*), commonly planted there for ornament. The larva webs up a group of the narrow leaves into a tube, and eats the parenchyma from within, thus destroying much foliage and rendering the plants unsightly. The proper name of the species appears to be :

PAROTIS FLEGIA, Cram.

1775—*Phalœna-Pyralis flegia*, Cramer, Pap. exot. ii., 66 ; pl. 140, f. D.

1832—*Phalœna-Pyralis flegia*, Poey, Cent. Ins., Cuba.

1827—*Margaronia virginialis*, Hübn., Verz. bek. Schmett., 358.

1854—*Margarodes flegialis*, Guén., Delt & Pyral., 310.

1854—*Margarodes phantasmalis*, Guén., Delt & Pyral., 310.

1854—*Paradosis villosalis*, Zeller, Lep. Cafr., 58.

1859—*Margaronia flegialis*, Walker, Cat. Brit. Mus., xviii., 520.

1898—*Glyphodes flegia*, Hampson, Proc. Zool. Soc., London, 732.

Eggs.—Not observed, but probably laid in a mass, as the young larvæ are gregarious.

Stage I.—In a slight web on the back of a leaf, many together. Head about .3 mm., very pale brownish. Body translucent, green, the food showing green, the tubercles dusky, shining ; i. to v. present, no subprimaries ; on the thorax ia + ib, iia + iib, iv. single, anterior ; cervical shield with six setæ, prespiracular tubercle with two. There is a faint trace of an orange-coloured subdorsal line.

Stage II.—Head about .6 mm., pale brown. Body transparent green, with large black tubercles, the subprimary ones now present. Body slender, shining, the tracheal line visible and a trace of the broad orange subdorsal band, seen only with a lens near the extremities at first, later distinct but broken.

Stage III.—Head about .9 mm. Like the mature larva, pale blue, though looking of a dirty green from the food showing through the transparent skin.

Stage IV.—Head 1.4 mm. The same.

Stage V.—(Interpolated.) Head pale brownish, shining ; primary setæ present ; width 1.7 mm. Body subtranslucent pale blue, shining, a broad, deep orange stripe between tubercles ii. and iii., absent on joints 2