

Cecidomyia and of another *Tincian*) in acorns of *Quercus ilicifolia* which were still on the tree, and which were infested with a little pip-like gall, between the acorn and the cup.*

To one who has watched with interest, the writings of Messrs. Scudder, Lintner, and Edwards on *Grapta interrogatoris*, Fabr., the article by the latter gentleman on page 70, is extremely gratifying. From the fact, that in Europe, *Grapta C-album* shows three very distinct variations, and from my own breeding experience with *interrogatoris*, I felt convinced that the black-winged and red-winged forms were but varieties of the one species, and so informed Mr. Lintner, over a year ago. I am glad Mr. Edwards has anticipated me in demonstrating it in print. Such facts ought to give impetus to the rearing of insects; for though the artificial method of making species out of every little individual variation may be very amusing to those who choose to indulge in it, yet such work will never give us a natural system, and much of it will have to be undone by subsequent investigators who acquaint themselves with the adolescent as well as the perfect forms of a species.

G. V. RILEY.

St. Louis, Sept., 10th, 1871.

HOW TO PRESERVE EPHEMERIDÆ.--In drying, the color and form of Ephemeridæ soon change. Color is of little importance, even in fresh examples; but form is necessary to the distinguishing of the species. They are, therefore, best preserved in a liquid. It is sufficient for ordinary purposes to dip the fresh killed specimen into diluted spirits, and then transfer it to a tube, or homœopathic globule bottle, partly filled with water. Next, Price's glycerine is added to the water—one or two drops a day—until the bottle is gradually filled. A small drop of acetic acid may be added finally, to prevent the growth of mould. The name of the species may be written on the disk of the cork, the date and locality of capture round its side. Hind wings of the species of *Baetis* and *Centrop-tilum* should be mounted on slips of grass, for microscopical examination. Pinned specimens are often difficult to determine, in consequence of their shrinking; to card them is to render them fit for nothing.—EATON'S *Ephemeridæ*.

* This little gall is undescribed. In company with Mr. H. F. Bassett, of Waterbury, Ct., I found it so abundant last month, that the acorns were very generally destroyed. Strange as it may appear, from observations made by Mr. Bassett, this gall will, in all probability, prove to be but the summer form of the wooly gall known as *quercus operator*—so little do we know yet of some of Nature's secrets!