

We have here several species of *Melitæa*--*Thuros*, *Batesii*, *Marcia*, *Harrisii*- all of which are double brooded, and which I believe pass the winter in the larval state. The habits of *Phaeton* seem to be generically different from these others. It belongs to the same group as *M. Arthemis*, of Europe, and Westwood describes this species as having its larvæ hatched in autumn, the young brood passing the winter under a common web, and as being full fed in April.

It is just possible that the eggs of *Phaeton*, although laid not later than June, may remain till October, and the young larvæ then be hatched, and that they spend the winter under a common web. But in this case they ought to be full fed by the middle of April, for they must be supposed to awake from their winter's sleep on the first warm days of spring, that is, not long after 20th March in this region.

At any rate here is a fair opportunity for investigation. One thing is noticeable about *Phaeton*, that wherever it appears at all, it is very local and in considerable numbers in its locality, which is rather favorable to the web theory. Twenty or fifty may be taken on one spot, which is not the case with any other *Melitæa* that I know of.

W. H. EDWARDS.

Coalburgh, West Virginia, Jan. 6, 1869.

[The above communication arrived too late for insertion in our last issue ; we accordingly took the opportunity of submitting it to Mr. E. Billings, of Ottawa, the only Canadian Entomologist, so far as we are aware, who has met with any number of the insect in question. He writes as follows : "I found the insect in a certain spot in 1866 and 1868, and in October last searched for the larvæ without success. In my notice (CAN. ENT. No. 4, p. 28) I specified the plants of the locality pretty fully, and am certain that it is upon one of these that it feeds. I have compared the vegetation of my locality with that of Mr. Edwards, and have arrived at the conclusion that it feeds there upon a different plant, but closely related in its botanical affinities, or containing some property common to both. I find that there are but three or four species that would or could probably occur as common to the two localities, and these are herbaceous.

"Assuming that the larvæ were but partially grown at the close of autumn, and spent the winter in a state of lethargy under a web, it would not be consistent to suppose that they would be attached to a plant whose stem dies down at the close of the season, and would be covered with water in the spring. I know that in the case of eggs this would be different, as they have a greater power of resisting the effects of moisture.

"Mr. Edwards has promised to investigate the matter next May, and no doubt he will succeed. Vegetation commences with him about five weeks