

It is necessary in these experiments to watch carefully for small spiders, who very soon discover the eggs and devour them remorselessly.—W. H. EDWARDS, Coalburgh, West Va.

FOOD-PLANT OF *DARAPSA VERSICOLOR*.—I enclose leaves of the plant on which the larvæ of *D. versicolor*, Harris, the rarest of our Sphinges, feed. It is a swamp plant, common in the vicinity of Brooklyn, N. Y.—W. H. EDWARDS.

[The plant has been kindly determined by Prof. Macoun to be *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (the Button Bush). It is, he states, a shrub growing on mud flats or along the low banks of streams; its leaves are opposite or in whorls of three leaves; its flowers are white growing in round heads about an inch across—hence the name.]

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE.—In addition to the localities mentioned in our last number, we have received a specimen of this destructive insect from Mr. N. H. Cowdry, Stratford, Ont., which was found there “on the sidewalk in a very mutilated condition.” Mr. Saunders has received specimens from Sarnia, and has heard of its being found at Amherstburg. The last number of the *American Entomologist* mentions that it has been found also at Point Edward, the extreme southern end of Lake Huron. If prompt action be not taken by the farmers in the western section of the country, we shall soon, we fear, have to chronicle its spread over the whole of our country.

NOTE ON A HABIT OF CERTAIN INDIAN COLEOPTERA.—The Rev. A. B. Spaight, late Missionary to Northern India, has informed me of a fact frequently observed by him at Moultan, and which has, I believe, acquired additional interest from the circumstances of its being a disputed point amongst Naturalists.

It appears that certain large beetles belonging to the *Lucanidæ* and *Longicornia* are said to saw off small branches from trees in order to get at the sap upon which they feed. Mr. Spaight (who only began to study the habits of insects after he had left England) arrived in India under the impression that the jaws of these large beetles (*Lucanidæ*?) were solely intended for burrowing,—indeed, he had been told almost as much; what was his surprise then, upon first meeting with them in their native haunts, to see the huge jaws clasp a branch round which at the same time the beetle was rapidly whirling, so that in a short time the branch fell to the ground completely sawn through; whereupon the insect immediately set to work to suck up the sap!

Being struck with this apparently new fact, Mr. Spaight paid particular attention to it, and noticed the same thing over and over again, so that he is