

The chief point of interest in this case is the luminosity of a *Larva*. Everyone in this country is well acquainted with the light-giving powers of our common winged "Fire-flies," and most of us have seen specimens of the female apterous "Glow-worm" found in England; but that a larva should possess this singular property is a novelty to us all. On looking up various authorities I find that Westwood mentions that the males, pupæ, larvæ, and even the eggs of the English Glow-worm are slightly luminous; and Kirby and Spence refer to a few similar instances. The last mentioned authors (Letter xxv.) also give an account of the various theories respecting the origin of this light, to which we would refer our readers. Professor Croft, who examined my specimen at London, has since written to me as follows:—"Burmeister found the larva of *Lampyrus splendidula* phosphorescent—he does not say how. Treviranus seems to have found that the light-giving substance (whatever it is) is diffused throughout the whole body of the insect, and that the appearance of the light in the thorax of *Elater noctilucus*, and in the abdomen of the different species of *Lampyrus* is due to these special portions being composed of a fatty matter which allows the light to pass through. It is generally believed that the light-giving substance is Phosphorus or some compound thereof, the light being caused by the air supplied by the breathing apparatus. Now, if we allow this to be true, *i.e.*, that the whole of the body of the insect becomes luminous under peculiar conditions, then, as your larva was composed of dark brown segments separated by lighter partitions, which apparently expanded as the heart moved, we can account for the very beautiful appearance it exhibited—the light shining through the paler or fatty-covered portions. It may perhaps be the larva of a *Lampyrus*."

Should any of our readers have met with similar larvæ, or be able to afford us any information on this interesting subject, we shall be very glad indeed to hear from them.

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## ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES.

### PAPER No. 1.

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On the morning of the 12th May, while rambling about on the edge of a wood near London, I happened to observe some chips from a newly felled tree strewn the ground. While turning them over in search of insects, the sight of an object I had never seen before excited my curiosity. It was the full grown larva of a butterfly—a *Polyommatus* or *Thecla*—I was not sure which. It had just stretched a silken thread across its body to aid in securing it to the spot selected in which to pass the chrysalis stage of its existence.