

That the yellow ground colour of most of the species is of protective value, and that the black markings aid in this object by breaking the continuity of outline, I think no one will contradict who has seen these insects in their natural homes, whether he be a believer in any of the theories advanced to account for this phenomenon or not. That the variation within specific limits is also very great will not be denied by one who has seen cabinet series from various parts of the country; but the meaning of this variation and its co-relations, if such there be, with the multitudinous incidents of food, size, habitat, altitude, temperature and moisture, are not to be made out at a sitting, but will take years of thought and labour to demonstrate. The few facts, for the bringing forward of which the present paper was written, may none the less serve a useful purpose in aiding those whose investigations are of a parallel nature to keep a sort of check on their own investigations, or to find that the work of others may help to bear out the conclusions arrived at in their own.

The figures *a* to *j* of the accompanying plate represent some of the forms shown by *Crossidius pulchellus* from southern localities. It will be noticed that the lightest forms, *h* and *i*, are both males, while the darkest, *c*, *d* and *e*, are females; the male shown at *j* is, however, darker than the females shown at *a* and *b*, the pattern resembling more closely that of *g*, though the males with fusiform sutural blotch, *h* and *i*, are lighter than the correspondingly marked females *a* and *b*; this is true also of the male with shield-shaped spot (*j*), and its corresponding females, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f* and *g*. The females, among themselves, show an increase in comparative size of the dark spot with decrease in actual size of the insect, as will be seen by comparisons of the hair-lines indicating the length of each specimen figured. The inference to be drawn here is that the female tends to the possession of increase of black markings over those of the male, and that the smaller specimens are likely to be darker than the larger.

Figures *q*, *r*, *s* and *t* are of specimens which have been referred to *C. hirtipes*, but which I am inclined to consider simply a small form of *C. pulchellus*, since they do not agree with the description of the former species. These are all females, and do not bear out well the conclusion which would seemingly be justified by the preceding series that the small specimens are darkest, since *r* is a lighter form than the larger *s*. At *t* is shown a curiously marked specimen in which the humeral spot is prolonged backward, connecting with the sutural mark at what is, in most specimens, its antero-lateral angle. This may be compared with fig. *e*