

## NOTE ON BASILARCHIA.

BY A. R. GROTE.

Some time ago, in speaking of the discovery of Mr. Gray of intermediate specimens showing a connection between the species of *Basilarchia* (published in the CAN. ENT.) I suggested that *arthemis* was the older form, a view which I have recently been glad to know is held by Mr. Scudder. In examining Southern specimens of *ursula* or *astyanax* and *Eros* (the latter the Southern form mimetic of *Danaïs*) I think it possible that *Eros* stands in a nearer relation to *astyanax* than to *archippus*, although the latter is a prevalent form in Alabama. In studying this group we seem really to have to do with series of individuals scarcely hardened into species. It will I think be the most profitable genus to take up in connection with developmental studies. We have here a group which seems to exhibit the effect of various outside forces upon a comparatively plastic organization, and can thus measure perhaps the extent of the different influences brought to bear in moulding external characters in our butterflies. How much climate, selection and mimicry can effect may be here determined, and which works quicker or at the shorter distance in succession. It will be very interesting if the facts bear out the offspring of *Eros* from *astyanax* as well as *archippus*, and not the two "mimetic" forms from each other.

## ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES.

LACHNOSTERNA FUSCA.

At the last meeting of the Entom. Soc. of Ontario, Mr. J. M. Denton reported that he had seen near Delaware, Co. Middlesex, Ont., a ten-acre pasture field almost destroyed by the larvæ of this beetle, and he exhibited some specimens he had brought. The roots of the grass were completely eaten through, and the sod on being lifted came away easily in large patches, showing the larvæ underneath at their work of destruction. The owner of the land said that this spring the beetles were hovering in dense swarms over the pasture.