

CORRESPONDENCE.

DIPTEROUS ENEMIES OF THE PHYLLOXERA VASTATRIX.

To the Editor: Will you permit me to refer briefly to the Rev. T. W. Fyles's description of *Diplosis grassator*, on p. 238, vol. xiv. I am credited with the reference of the insect to the genus *Diplosis*, though in reality I have never seen Mr. Fyles's insect, whether in the larva, pupa or imago state. I simply expressed the opinion at Montreal, both to yourself, Mr. Editor, and to Mr. Fyles, that the insect would prove to be a *Diplosis*, from the general account of the larva then and there given to me. It is rather unjust to quote another's mere opinion given in this manner, when, by submitting specimens for examination, a definite and more authoritative decision could have been obtained.* In this case the reference seems to be correct, a fact which, under the circumstances, is a mere accident.

I need hardly say that there is nothing in the description that is not of so general a nature as to be at most generic, so that we have no evidence whatever as to whether the species is new or by what characters it is to be distinguished from the hitherto described species of the genus.

But my object in writing is to point out the fact that there are two different orange-colored Dipterous larvæ that attack the gall-inhabiting form of *Phylloxera vastatrix* in all its stages of growth, and particularly in the egg state. Neither of them is parasitic, strictly speaking, but merely predaceous, not only on *Phylloxera vastatrix*, but on other gall-making Phylloxerians and Pemphigians. First, we have the pale-orange or salmon-colored *Diplosis* larva referred to by Mr. Fyles, with the usual breast-bone of the Cecidomyidæ, and with the pupa showing the antennal processes at the anterior end. Second, a deeper orange larva contracting to a brown pupa with two oblique processes from the anal end, and producing a fly of a totally different family (Agromyzidæ) belonging to the genus *Leucopis*. This is by far the most efficient of the two enemies, and the larvæ have undoubtedly been at times confounded, as witness the differences between Walsh and Shimer (*Practical Entomologist*, ii., p. 19). The *Leucopis*, so far as I have investigated the matter, is undescribed and is referred to in my manuscript notes as *L. phylloxera*.

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* The Editor is solely responsible for this reference to Prof. Riley; Mr. Fyles knew nothing of it until he saw it in print. The opinion given in Montreal as to the generic position of this insect was so unhesitating and positive in its character that we thought it not only safe but due to Prof. Riley to credit him with the determination.