

hungry. Mr. Mead tried it with several sorts of leaves, among them violet, giving it also a drop of water which it greedily drank. It soon after began to eat the violet, and being fed on that grew rapidly, and by 25th September had attained a length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On 1st October it changed to chrysalis, and resembled much in shape that of *Phacton*, the surface clear pearly color, partly iridescent, and covered with metallic bronze tubercles. During my absence from home the last two weeks of October, this chrysalis yielded imago, *Euptoieta claudia*. Boisduval & Leconte pretend to represent this larva, but we did not suspect the species from their figure.

The presence of this larva on alder several feet from the ground indicates that it rests during the day and returns at night to its food plant (violet). It travelled with wonderful rapidity, and a daily journey of ten feet would be a small affair for it. Very likely the larvæ of other Argynnidæ have the same habit, and might be found by beating the bushes near their food-plant rather than by searching the plant itself.

I was not successful this year in obtaining eggs of either of the large Argynnis. In 1869 I succeeded in hatching larvæ of *Diana*, *Cybele*, and *Aphrodite*, but one after another fell off the food plant (violet and vernonia) apparently dried up. Dr. Hayhurst, of Sedalia, Mo., to whom I sent eggs of *Diana*, brought one larva to second moult when it also died. I believe this was owing to the dryness of the feeding boxes. The larvæ, in a state of nature, feed on low growing plants in shady, moist situations. Probably feeding in tin boxes kept moist would answer the purpose. The larva of *Euptoieta* seems eager for water, a thing quite new in my experience with any larvæ, and both those of *Argynnis* and of *Melitæa* may have the same need.

Coalburgh, W. Va., 27th February, 1871.

[NOTE BY ED. C. E.—The above interesting and valuable communication from Mr. Edwards is, we are happy to say, the precursor of many more. In a recent letter he states, "I shall take pleasure in writing pretty regularly to your Journal respecting my own insect breeding, and if other observers will do the same, we can soon get in convenient shape for reference a great deal of information of value to those interested." We trust that this suggestion will be carried out, and that Entomologists throughout North America will freely avail themselves of our pages for the recording of their observations in this and other branches of the science.]
