

approach revealed the presence of vast numbers -- I might safely say millions--of these butterflies clustering everywhere. I counted a small space, about the size of my two hands, on one of the trees, and there were thirty-two butterflies suspended on it, and the whole group of trees was hung in a similar manner. When disturbed, they flew up in immense numbers, filling the air, and after floating about a short time, gradually settled again. There appeared to be nothing on the trees to attract them, yet when undisturbed they appeared at this time, to prefer resting in quiet, as if enjoying the presence of congenial society. I regretted not having a net with me, as I should like to have captured a number of them to see in what proportion the sexes were represented in the company. Their food plants--the various species of *Asclepias*--did not appear to be unusually common in that section. I apprehended that many of the individuals must have travelled some distance to be present at this gathering. The fact that the larva of *Archippus* is but seldom affected with parasites may partially account for their occasional abundance; I only know of one small ichneumon infesting them, and have seldom met with this.

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ABUNDANCE OF *D. ARCHIPPUS* IN MASSACHUSETTS.--I wish to call attention to the fact that *Danaus archippus*, Fab., is exceedingly common all over New England this season. It is well known that many species of our butterflies have a year of great abundance, and then are almost unknown for quite a series of years. The cause of this is usually attributed to a scarcity of insect enemies, and a favorable season for their food. This abundance of a species is a sufficient reason for the multiplication of parasitic enemies, which increase to the point of almost total extermination of the species attacked, as well as themselves. Two years ago, *Cynthia cardui* was very abundant, and I obtained over one hundred larvæ, not one of which could I raise on account of a parasitic fly-larvæ which were so abundant as to lack food for their own maturity, practically exterminating one another. Since then I have not seen a single *cardui*. Whether the parasitic fly is common I am unable to say. I am confident that to some extent the above is true of many species, but *D. archippus* never has to my knowledge any enemies, for this year I have raised abundance of larvæ and taken many chrysalids; but all were sound. Therefore we must hunt for some other cause of their disappearance. Perhaps others more interested in Lepidoptera than myself may have gathered facts which will throw light upon this subject, and to draw out these experiences induces