

A BLACK MALE OF PAPILIO TURNUS.

Sir,—Having been a constant reader of the ENTOMOLOGIST for the past ten or twelve years, I have never found anything published in your valuable journal as regards the capture of a black male of *Papilio Turnus*. In the annual report of the Entomological Society of Ontario, for 1889, on page 38, Mr. Fletcher writes at some length in regard to the Tiger Swallow-Tail butterfly (*Papilio turnus*). The statement to which I wish to call your attention is on page 39, on the eleventh line from top of page, where he says: "No specimen of the black male has ever been taken; the only approach to this melanic form is a beautiful suffused variety." No doubt but the author was about right, for I had examined other journals and had failed to find any account bearing upon this subject, as I had one or two beautiful *Papilios* in my collection, and was uncertain as to what they were. The other day I was out collecting, and to my great surprise captured a beautiful ♂ and ♀ of *Turnus* in copulation, so you see there is no question as to their identity. This beautiful black male *Turnus* resembles *Papilio Troilus* in some respects, having its wings black; primaries with a marginal row of rich cream-coloured spots, whereas in *Troilus* they are a light or pale yellow; secondaries with bluish lunules, while in *Troilus* they are green, running along the margin. The anal spot with a bluish crescent as in *P. Palamedes* and in *P. Cresphontes*, while the anal spot in *Troilus* is entirely orange. Tails slender and black. After being a collector of insects for the past twenty years, both in the south and north, this was indeed the first golden opportunity and I had the pleasure of the capture of a black male *Turnus*. Its distribution covers a wide area, reaching from the far north to the confines of the tropics, going by the variety name *Glaucus* in the south, just in the same manner as *Papilio Machaon* of the old world, which is to be found in England, France, Germany, Northern India and Japan, and a huge variety *Hippocrates*, of Northeast China, while *P. Polydorus* and *P. Alexanor*, strictly of European origin, are limited to a much smaller territory than either *Turnus* or *Machaon*. Whilst *P. Rutulus* and its varieties *Arizonensis* and *Anmoni*, resembling in general appearance *Turnus*, but somewhat smaller, and being distinguished by its having the yellow band which runs along the posterior margin on underside of primaries unbroken, while in *Turnus* it is disconnected, is found throughout the Pacific states, *P. Eurymedon*, its var. *Albanus*, *P. Daunus* and *P. Pylumnus*, all of which belong to the yellow tribe of *Papilios*, range within the confines of the western states, while *P. Cebalus*, which bears a close resemblance to *Turnus* except that the yellow shows a slight tinge of orange, is found in Mexico, and thus far, has never been found elsewhere even as a winged visitor. More fully will these matters be treated of in my forthcoming work on "The Geographical Distribution of Butterflies and Moths."

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