

*pennæ*. His published description first appeared in the October number of the CAN. ENT., nearly five months after the publication of "my synoptic tables," as previously pointed out by me, and the points claimed by him are without value.

In order to close a controversy that has already assumed an inconsistent warmth, I now propose for Mr. Howard's genus the name *Chrysoplatycerus*, and the species may in future be known as *Chrysoplatycerus splendens* Howard.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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### A FLOCK OF BUTTERFLIES.

*Dear Sir:* While in the interior of New Guinea, in Aug., 1883, I observed what might properly be called a flock of butterflies. They were apparently of one species\* (of a dark brown color, with a blue reflection on the fore wings in a certain light), and in such great numbers as to actually blacken the green bushes on which they lit. I first came across them one day, while out after birds, in a thick and shaded part of the tall forest, in low land adjoining the Laloki river. Being so numerous, I supposed it would be an easy matter to catch all I desired without the aid of a net, but after several unsuccessful attempts, in which case they would rise in a cloud and settle again in a few moments on the bushes close at hand, I was obliged to give it up. They did not seem to be very much disturbed at my approach, but would not, however, allow me to get very near without taking flight. As soon as I remained still, they would immediately settle on bushes and foliage close by, but always out of reach. The flock was, perhaps, two acres in extent, but the butterflies were not equally numerous over this entire area. In some places every bush, branch, twig and leaf seemed to be covered with them, while in others there were comparatively few. What their object was, or how long they remained in that locality, I am unable to say, except that in visiting the place several days afterwards, they were still there in apparently undiminished numbers. I might add none were seen feeding, and, so far as I observed, there were no flowers in bloom anywhere in the vicinity.

S. W. DENTON, Wellesley, Mass.

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\* The name is unknown to me, but I have a specimen of this butterfly which, if returned; I will send to any person who is capable and willing to determine it.