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## HISTORY OF PHYCIODES THAROS, A POLYMORPHIC BUTTERFLY.

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In the month of July, 1875, I chanced to be in the Catskill Mts., when Mr. Mead discovered the food-plant of *tharos*, as detailed by him in Vol. vii, ENT., p. 161, this being the common wild Aster, *A. Nova-angliae*, and I obtained from him a cluster of eggs; also afterwards got others for myself by tying the females in bags over the stems of the same plant. The larvæ hatched, and while in their younger stages I brought them to Coalburgh. On the journey, stopping at several points, I had to give them leaves of such species of Aster as I could find, and they ate any and all readily—even German Asters from the garden. By the 4th of September they had ceased feeding, after having all passed two moults, and slept. Two weeks later, part of them were again active and fed for a day or two, when these gathered in clusters and presently passed their third moult, and became lethargic, each one where it moulted, with the cast skin by its side. I placed all the larvæ in the cellar, and so they remained till 7th Feb., when such as were alive (many had died from mould), were transferred to leaves of an Aster which had been forced in the green-house. The same day some were feeding. They all passed in due time two more moults, making a total of five in some cases. But whether those larvæ which moulted twice only in the fall did not pass three moults in the spring I cannot say. Further observations are necessary on this habit. The first chrysalis was formed 5th May, and its butterfly emerged on 18th, or after 13 days. Another emerged on 30th, after 8 days, this stage being shortened as the weather became warmer. There resulted 8 butterflies, all *marcia*, 5 ♂, 3 ♀, and all of the variety hereinafter designated C, except one ♀, which was var. B.

The first individuals of the species seen by me, in the field, at Coalburgh, were 3 ♂ *marcia*, on 18th May. A single ♀ was taken 19th, two