

the twilight, as I have never taken it before ten minutes past eight, nor ever after half-past eight. Bright, clear evenings I have found much more favourable than cloudy ones, though I have visited the locality on many evenings without seeing one.

I have never succeeded in seeing where they came from, though I have stood watching intently for them for fifteen minutes or more before they appeared, but suddenly two or three would be in the air together, often out of reach of the net, swinging back and forth in their peculiar oscillating manner, though single individuals have been taken by others while flying along near the ground.

If touched by the net without being caught, they would drop into the grass apparently quite helpless. Six-sevenths of those which I have taken were males, but others have secured a more even division of the sexes.

One of the specimens taken in 1891 was a female, which I kept alive in order to secure eggs. It laid freely an enormous number, and I do not know whether it might not have laid more had it been kept alive longer. It was kept alive for two days in a wooden box, with gauze over the top, and seemed to hang perfectly quiet and to allow the eggs to run from her, as they were not attached, but loose in the bottom of the box. At the end of this time she was found to have been knocking about and spoiling her wings, and so was killed. The eggs were counted very carefully, and were found to amount to the enormous number of 2,151.

The following description was taken :—

Length, .027 of an inch.

Breadth, .022 of an inch.

Even oval, slightly flattened on lower side, perfectly smooth, but dull, like unglazed porcelain.

Colour, a pale honey-yellow when laid, soon turning black.

This female, however, must have been virgin, as the eggs speedily shrivelled, so that I was unable to obtain the young larvæ, or to make any of the experiments which I had contemplated in the direction of placing the eggs upon any likely food-plant. In connection with this subject several questions of great interest arise. It is well known that the moths of this family are very abundant in the Old World, one especially, *Hepialus Velleda*, swarming in Scotland in myriads, yet though we have a great many species on this continent, I do not think that any one can be considered other than very rare, except *H. Mustelinus*, which Packard reported (Proc. Ent. Soc., Phil., III., 394), as not uncommon at