

profitable extent. We begin to be better acquainted with the previous stages, and this acquaintance will bring these characters into more prominence. I doubt embryological characters to be of generic value. But very little is certainly known about them, and nothing known is ready for our use. The parts serving for propagation have probably a higher value than generic characters. Characters for genera should be of a co-ordinate value. I think it is obvious that a genus should never be accepted if its characters are not satisfactorily given, and that genera based on the mere specification of a type should never be accepted.

---

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SIR,—

In the early part of June I found on the Wax-Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) three larvæ unknown then to me. I regret now that want of time prevented me from making an accurate description of them, but my notes simply say: "Looks like a *Geometra*—may be small *Catocala*; prettily marked with dark grey; central segments underneath white or light grey."

Only one of the caterpillars produced an imago, and this proved to be *Catocala badia*. It was about fourteen days only in the chrysalis state, and I am now forced to the conclusion that *C. badia* must be double brooded.

W. V. ANDREWS.

P. S.—From what I have observed of the larval habits and appearance of *Catocala*, I am convinced that this genus should be very close to *Geometra*.

W. V. A.

Brooklyn, July 7th, 1876.

---

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER.

DEAR SIR,—

As an example of retarded development, let me mention that three or four years ago I laid aside some old cocoons of *Samia cynthia*, which I thought were empty, and to my amazement, three splendid specimens have this season made their appearance. I know that wonderful stories are told about the abnormally long continuance of some Coleoptera in the chrysalis form, but I never before observed a similar instance in Lepidoptera. Do you know of any?