

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

POLYHISTOR?—In the September number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, the State Entomologist of Missouri, who is a stranger to me, asserts that “there is something rather incoherent in my articles—that I have committed serious errors,” and, furthermore, that I “must not talk of the family of *Hymenoptera*.” When I write for the ENTOMOLOGIST, it is not with the intention of leading others astray, or of committing error; and after all consideration, I doubt if my significations would be looked upon as incongruous by the majority of my Entomological colleagues. I have no knowledge of Mr. Riley’s definition of “family,” and I care not to which of the theories he may have a leaning. I hold my own, and have a perfect right to talk of the *Family of Hymenoptera*. In following up this cause, perhaps this Naturalist would have the kindness to correct me with more distinctness, when next he publishes strictures upon my Entomological Notes, and state, for general information, how many families of *Hymenoptera* exist on this continent.

I am told that I “ought to know that *curculionidous* larvæ do not spin silken cocoons,” and furthermore, that I “carelessly overlooked the legs” of the larva which I described on page 65, because it happens that inquilinous Lepidopterous larvæ take possession of acorns after they have fallen from the tree. On the 31st of March, the larvæ were of two kinds, and three sizes were found in the acorns of the White Oak in this latitude, and I am not astray in stating that a larva of an unknown Coleopterous insect did spin a cocoon within an acorn.

In the October number of the ENTOMOLOGIST, Mr. Riley expresses his sorrow for having rashly and inconsistently contradicted a matter with which he was not thoroughly acquainted. Having no knowledge of the existence in this country of a silk-spinning snout-beetle, and, as every Entomologist ought to be conscientious, he thought he should be, even at the ninth hour, and discovers good European authority stating that snout-beetles do spin silken cocoons, or at least, close their nidus with some substance resembling silk. In the September number of the ENTOMOLOGIST, p. 118, he tells us that the acorn weevil is *Balaninus rectus* Say, and that it is found in the acorns of one of the oaks in his State. Fortunately, at this juncture, Mr. Pettit, of Grimsby, comes to my aid, and throws additional light on this important inquiry, by the discovery of *Balaninus*