

CORRESPONDENCE.

DANAIS ARCHIPPUS.

Dear Sir,—The butterfly *Danais archippus* is not only harmless, but beneficial. Its food plant (*Asclepias*) is very troublesome to farmers in this part. The butterfly almost always lays her eggs on the pedicel of the flower, so that when the larvae hatch, they attack the flowers and eat down into the ovaries. I have seen an umbel of flowers eaten almost entirely by two larvae. I think they are quite a check to this weed, hindering it from seeding. If they only fed on the leaves, they could not possibly hurt the plant. The mature larva does not feed on the flowers, probably because when it reaches maturity there are not many flowers left.

GEORGE HALEY, Brownfield, Maine.

OPHELETES GLAUOPTERUS PARASITIC UPON CIMBEX AMERICANA.

Dear Sir,—In the autumn of 1884, I picked up in my garden a larva of *Cimbex Americana*, Leach. This has always been one of my favourite insects, not only for the beauty of the pale yellow larva, with the stripe of deep black down the centre of its back, but also on account of the interest which centres around the emergence of the imago in spring, to see, should it chance to be a female, to which of the three "varieties" it might belong. As the larva in question was apparently full fed, I placed it in a box with some earth and a few of the leaves of its food-plant (*Ulmus Americana*, L.) and in a few days it spun its hard, brown cocoon. The following spring, on looking into the box, I was much pleased to find, instead of the well known, gaudy and clumsy *Cimbex*, a fine female of the handsome Ichneumon fly, *Ophelates glaucopterus*, Linn., a species not at all common at Ottawa.

J. F.