

NEW HISTORIES IN PAPAPEMA (HYDRÆCIA).

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(Continued from Vol. XXXIV., p. 118.)

There are certain species here and there among our moths which are possessed of a sort of will-o'-the-wisp evasiveness, and one would as soon think of encountering them in nature as of finding the mythical pot of gold at the rainbow's end. The causes that bring about such conditions are, of course, varied, and these species often stand represented by some unique type in a distant collection. That the British Museum has long taken first rank in sheltering many of these uniques goes without saying, hence the matter of a rediscovery becomes of more than ordinary moment. Further, an additional satisfaction arises, if at a second meeting with the recluse the early history is exposed as well, and we find the way open to a more extended acquaintance, the while getting an insight into the specific standing, had that ever been questioned. So, in the rediscovery of that captivating Noctuid, *Papaipema (Hydræcia) appassionata*, one of our most elusive moths has again come to light, and we have the added pleasure of perusing an interesting larval history. The species was described by Harvey years ago, coming from London, Ontario, and his single type in the British Museum has stood perhaps as the only positive representative. That it should come to light again at so distant a point, seems a little surprising, though other of its congeners are equally dispersed, and the insight into its life habit aids in the explanation. The food-plant, *Sarracenia*, though widely distributed, is native to such districts, and flourishes under such wild conditions that these moths, whose career runs through but a few days' duration, would be scarcely met with, and we may easily conceive of the rarity of the imago.

That the larva should have been encountered, stood more in the line of probabilities, since the quaint little pitcher plant has ever been a subject of interest to naturalists, and of late years especially has been receiving the attention of many entomologists. Already the plant has furnished details among Noctuid life-histories, those pleasing little *Exyria* larvæ having had their habits chronicled by Thaxter and Riley, while the current enthusiasm concerning mosquitoes and their developments has brought out the fact of a species whose young seem to be propagated in the waters of the pitchers exclusively. With such an amount of expert scrutiny directed to *Sarracenia*, we might have expected *appassionata* to have been met before, and this very fact augurs to the restricted and localized range that colonies of the species inhabit.