

also occurs frequently among the Sphingidæ, where a specimen will pass over one season until the next in the chrysalis state ; this has been supposed to be a natural provision for the perpetuation of the species.

Mr. Bassett enquired whether in such examples they were not uniformly females. Mr. Lintner stated that in his experience both sexes were retarded.

Prof. Martin exhibited transparent specimens of gum copal in which were imbedded Hymenopterous insects. He stated that copal is a fossil resin of the post-tertiary period obtained chiefly from Mozambique ; that he had found in this resin about fifty species of insects, about one-third of which were Coleoptera, one-third Diptera and the other third of the remaining Orders ; two of the latter were Lepidopterous, one a Geometer, and the other he thought belonged to Zygaenidæ.

Mr. Bethune mentioned that he had found the larvæ of the Colorado Potato Beetle eating the leaves of the common Milk-weed, *Asclepias*.

Mr. Barnard had also seen one of these larvæ feeding on Milk-weed, but in this instance the larva was lighter in color than usual. Mr. Lintner remarked that it was unfortunate that the Potato Beetle would feed in the larval state on quite a number of different plants, and in the absence of vegetable food would sometimes feed on one another.

Mr. Saunders had observed this carnivorous propensity of the Potato Beetle larvæ on several occasions, and had seen the same among the Cut-worms, and in one or two instances among larvæ of the Lycaenidæ. Mr. Scudder had also observed similar habits. Prof. Comstock had noticed it especially in the Cotton-ball worm, *Heliothis armigera*.

Mr. Lintner invited Prof. Comstock to give some details in reference to the present plans and operations connected with his department at Washington. Prof. Comstock stated that he was endeavoring to work up a biological collection of insects on such a scale and in such a manner as shall be a credit to the Government. He has a large number of breeding cages, and an assistant who devotes his whole time to the rearing and mounting of insects. Special attention has been paid this year to insects feeding on clover, and the collection now contains over fifty species known to be destructive to this valuable crop. Prof. Comstock asked the aid of all Entomologists and assured them that any insects sent him would be well taken care of.

Mr. Scudder urged that Entomologists should recognize the fact that