

VANESSA CALIFORNICA AGAIN.

BY F. M. WEBSTER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

I note with interest the criticism of Dr. J. McDunnough of Decatur, Illinois, in the July Number of the Canadian Entomologist, on my note in the preceding April number relating to the above-named species.

The trouble seems to be that Dr. McDunnough is looking at the matter solely from the viewpoint of what the writers of the letters, quoted by me, claimed to have seen, while I used these letters in their entirety, together with the identifications as they came to me, for the purpose of complete record, not only with the object of showing what these people stated that they saw, but also what they actually "produced in court," thus the better enabling everyone to draw his own conclusions from all of the evidence presented.

The problem of the exact larval food habits of the species is not susceptible of solution, either in Washington, D. C., or in Decatur, Illinois.

A PARASITE OF THE CHINCH BUG EGG.*

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In the experiments conducted this year to determine the time of the first appearance of young chinch bugs and the mortality of the eggs, a large number of eggs were collected in the field for examination. The eggs, which were collected at different intervals and in different localities, were examined daily. While thus examining the eggs it was noticed that some of them became dark in colour instead of assuming the usual red colouring. These eggs were isolated, and on May 19 there emerged from them three parasites. With these three parasites as a basis, the life-history was carried through four generations, running up to July 5. Since this was the first time between the two broods of the chinch bug,

*Mr. A. B. Gahan, Entomological Assistant of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Dept. of Agric., to whom specimens of the parasite were sent for determination, says: "I have made a partial examination of these parasites, and find them to belong to the family *Proctotrypidæ*, and they probably fell close to the genus *Telenomus*. It will require further study for me to determine definitely regarding them. It seems probable that they represent not only a new species, but possibly a new genus."