

Besides the fern borer, *marginidens* and a stray *cataphracta* are all that appear, and, disconsolate, it is feared our trip has been taken in vain. The flora is but slightly different from that of Rye, and those plants favourable for boring which are new to us are so few as to be easily examined, but all give negative results. One of the number is such a nice, smooth-skinned, stocky perennial, that it seems it should be infested by something, if only a common *nitela*. So it is hardly a surprise when in another locality, that has apparently run to waste for years, this plant is found containing young *Hydracia* at work in the stem. Not seeming familiar, though at such an early stage one cannot be very positive, a score or more are sought, and together with a supply of the food-plant are transported to the home menagerie. In due season a series of the imago is at hand, and, strangely, it proves a species that will fit in nowhere. So, though missing *speciosissima*, an unexpected result is scored in another direction, and the Rhode Island venture is voted a success after all. The succeeding year another lot of the larvæ are secured, that our earlier conclusions may be fully verified the second time, with a result to only strengthen the former impressions.

Upon encountering new forms in a genus already well represented, and where these exhibit affinities closely connecting the representative species, the questions of varietal limitation at once become important. Perhaps the greatest help in such cases is a knowledge of larval developments, the wider the better, or the experience gained in viewing large series of the imagoes as they emerge into the perfect state. So it will happen in an extended study of *Hydracia* that certain delineations of specific characters become more or less easy and offer lines by which we may reasonably expect to differentiate them. More especially may this hold when recognizable differences occur in the early stages as well, so that it appears just how much one known valid species is separated from its ally. With the importance now properly given to larval structure, and especially that of tubercle arrangement as an aid in classification, the theories arising as to the development, use and significance of these characters are of more than passing interest. Furthermore, when considering them as a means of graduating genera to our conceptions of what may be "higher" or "lower" in point of specialization or descent, positive notes as to the acquisition of these characters carry importance. Thus, when meeting a *Hydracia* larva which nicely illustrated a point in this line, there was naturally a desire to draw attention to it. Yet, try as we may,