

The Hesperidæ are regarded by me as a group equal in systematic value to all the other Rhopalocera, and one which forms a transition to the Heterocera. They approach the latter through the possession of an attachment to the anterior tibiæ, the double-spurred posterior tibiæ of most of the species, and in the pupa being enclosed in a net-work of threads. No other group of the Diurnals, so far as I know, has two pairs of spurs on the posterior tibiæ. Besides the Hesperidæ, the Papilioninæ (Equites) alone have the tibial epyphysis, and in these alone the thread-enclosed pupa is found, at least in one of the genera (*Parnassius*). In other respects, however, the Papilioninæ are far removed from the Hesperidæ.

The Hesperidæ are still more decidedly characterized as a genealogical transition group, between the Heterocera and the Rhopalocera, in that they possess besides, in particular cases, two characteristic physiological and anatomical peculiarities—the position of the wings when at rest, and the catch-bristle (*haftborste*) of the hind wings.

*Nisoniades Tages* carries its wings, as I have observed towards evening in sleeping examples resting upon flowers, directed backwards and sloping like the roof of a house, as in the night-moths. The same observation had already been made by Prof. Zeller, not only in *Tages*, but in freshly excluded examples of *H. malvarum* O., which last had the antennæ placed sideways and laid along the thorax, and the abdomen turned upwards, so that the observer was reminded of a sleeping *Heterogenia testudinana* (*Isis*, 1847, p. 288). Whether others have also made the same observations with this or other species, I do not know. I have not myself given the subject much attention. So far as I remember, I have always found the other Hesperians, when at full rest, sitting with erect wings, in the normal position of the Diurnals; but not with separated wings, as has been mostly stated.

A fully developed *retinaculum*\* occurs only in the male of *Euschemon rafflesiae* Macleay, and it is remarkable that the home of this singular genus is Australia, where so many primitive forms have been preserved that elsewhere have been overthrown by terrestrial revolutions, or destroyed by the concurrence of more progressive rivals.

Looking away from these possibly single cases, the Hesperidæ form a very natural, in themselves closed, division of the Diurnals, and as such

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\* [The *frenulum* of many authors.—L.]