

been traced to organic germs—in few words, a first-class scientific student, who, after careful investigation of the fungus-killed insects brought to him by the “practical” entomologists, shall inform the latter of the nature of the fungi, whether they are transmutable or fixed in structure,* how they can most advantageously be cultivated, and in what vehicle they can best be distributed when needed.

Is there any resemblance between these two pictures?

A MYSTERY IN REFERENCE TO PRONUBA YUCCASELLA.

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Last summer Dr. Geo. Engelmann saw some parts of the biological collection here, and was so kind to promise me his help to obtain some species, which I was very eager to possess, viz., *Pronuba yuccasella* in its different stages, and *Phylloxera*. By his request, I received through the kindness of Mr. Thos. Meehan, in September, two bundles of the stems of *Yucca filamentosa* and *angustifolia*. The latter species, after a careful examination of every stick, was found to be entirely free of insects or larvæ; but the former contained many numerous small green larvæ in silky cocoons (and no other kind of larva), placed through the whole length of the stem and in every direction. I compared the larva with Mr. Riley's figure and description of *Pr. yuccasella*, and as both disagreed—the larva having *no legs at all*—I believed it to be a new Rhynchophorous larva at least unknown to me, and wrote accordingly to Mr. Thos. Meehan. Having placed some larvæ in alcohol, I postponed further investigation until they would be more advanced; but they lived through the whole winter, and did not increase in a marked manner.

How was I surprised when, in May, I found in the jar where I kept the stems two moths of *Pronuba yuccasella*! I believed at first that I had overlooked their larvæ, and that, after Mr. Riley's description, they had

* As this is a subject of which little is known, it offers a most promising field for squabbling, and in fact is being already cultivated for that purpose, with prospects of an abundant crop of prematurely expressed opinions.