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NOTES ON THE EGGS AND YOUNG LARVÆ OF

MELITÆA HARRISII.

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For several years past, I have tried to obtain eggs from this species by confining the females in small boxes, but without success until this year, when several of these insects were taken during the third week in June, and shut up in boxes and laid aside. They were unfortunately overlooked until the 5th of July, when in one box was found a cluster of 14 eggs which were about hatching, and in another 31 in one cluster, and three detached ones near it. Those in the latter box had not been so long laid, and their colour was unchanged, and from them the following description was taken:—

Length $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, width $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. Colour green, of rather a pale shade; nearly barrel-shaped, contracted towards the upper end, which has a nearly flat or slightly concave smooth surface. The sides are ornamented with a series of sixteen raised striæ placed at regular intervals, and the bottom end is somewhat flattened, and attached firmly to the surface of the box.

The other lot of eggs, which were just about hatching, had lost their green colour, and presented a whitish hue around the sides and towards the bottom; while the upper portion was dark brown, from the colour of the young larva showing through the transparent egg-shell. While examining one of the eggs under the microscope, one of the mandibles of the enclosed larva was thrust through the egg-shell near the upper surface, and soon after the other appeared near by in the same manner, and after some effort these were made to meet, and then shortly a small opening made, which admitted of the head being partly thrust through, when the larva soon began to eat the egg around, with the view of removing the top. The thickened striæ of the egg were not ruptured without much effort, the points of the mandibles being thrust through the interspaces, and the thicker ridge grasped and torn, after many endeavours, by pulling inwards. As the opening progressed, the sides continued to be eaten down sufficiently to admit of the head being thrust through, the thinner