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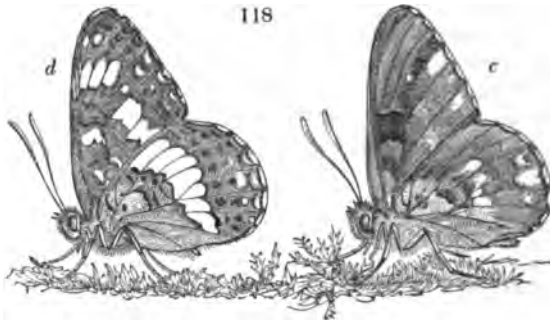
MEMBER OF VARIOUS NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES OF THE CONTINENT.

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each other, in a way which it is not very easy to describe accurately in words. I have seldom seen a more strongly marked variety of any lepidopterous insect; and yet any entomologist acquainted with *Limenitis Camilla* would, I conceive, at once, without hesitation, pronounce it no more than a variety of that species. I am, Sir, yours, &c. — *W. T. Bree*. *Allesley Rectory, June 14. 1832.*

Small Fishes are destroyed by other Insects, besides the Larvæ of Dragon Flies as instanced p. 519. — In Vol. III. p. 148., J. Elles describes the fact of a small fish being killed by “the water beetle,” to which it had been experimentally introduced in a basin of water. He remarks, that, after the beetle had killed the fish, “it never left it till it was a perfect skeleton, similar to numbers that he [Mr. Elles’s neighbour] had found.” Another correspondent (B., Coventry) has subsequently (Vol. IV. p. 476.) asked, of what genus and species was this “water beetle?” but the query at present seems not to have met the eye of Mr. Elles. — *J. D.*

Five Specimens of Cicada hæmatodes, captured in the New Forest. — Sir, In July 1826, while ranging in the New Forest, Hants, between Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst, persevering in my search after rare insects, I was delighted at length on discovering a specimen of *Cicada hæmatodes*, resting on the stem of the fern [*Pteris aquilina*]. The sun was shining at the time, and the day was intensely hot. I had previously been at a very great loss in what manner I should procure a specimen of this scarce insect for my museum, — knowing that it had been vigilantly sought after by the most diligent collectors for many years, and that its history and manner of secreting itself had never been recorded by naturalists. I was, it is true, aware of the general supposition, that it took its flight by night, or in the dusk of the evening; but this was information more likely to mislead, than to guide me to the discovery of what I so anxiously sought after. I have, never-

theless, spent numbers of dreary hours in that extensive forest at these periods, without the desired success, and was certainly fortunate in my discovery at last, by accident rather than by intention. I may here observe, that the insect either appears sluggish in its habits, or is altogether unconscious of its danger, as it suffered me to approach and take it off the stem of the fern without making the slightest effort to escape. A few days after taking the first, I discovered a second, and very fine specimen, in the same situation; and, two days after this, I caught another in my net. From the nature of the flight of this, I had imagined it to be the *Æstrus bòvis*, as it exactly resembled the flight of this insect, except that the duration of the flight of the *Cicàda hæmatòdes* is short. The first insect had evidently flown some time, from the wasted state in which I found it. I was strongly reminded at the moment of an observation of that eminent entomologist, Mr. Haworth, in describing a rare insect, — “It had rather over-travelled.” I have taken five specimens in the course of my researches, by watching their passage, going immediately to the spot, and taking them up with my finger and thumb. The *Cicàda* moves only when the sun shines, and in the direction through the New Forest, from Lyndhurst towards Brockenhurst, keeping on the left hand side of the turnpike road, about the space of from half a mile to a mile within the forest; and this I believe to be the only locality in which it has hitherto been taken. The reason why more have not been captured, I should imagine to be this, that, from its flight, it has been generally imagined to be a very common insect. I am, Sir, yours, &c. — *R. Weaver. Temple Row, Birmingham, Nov. 28. 1831.*

Extensive Ravages committed by the Caterpillar of the Tórtrix viridàna on the Leaves of Oak Trees, in Surrey, in the last Three Years. — Sir, Of the power possessed by insects individually small, and of little importance, when united together in numbers, of defacing the beauty of a country, we have full proof in the accounts we read of the wandering locust, that ravages the East and Northern Africa; leaving, in its passage, what was smiling in verdure, a dreary and desolate waste. In our own, in that respect, more fortunate land, we had almost deemed ourselves free from such extreme devastation; but for the last three summers we have been visited by a plague scarcely less unpleasant, though certainly less generally terrible in its effects. It is now for three successive springs that the fine oak woods filling the valleys in the neighbourhood of Haslemere have been infested with the caterpillar of the *Tórtrix viridàna*, to so considerable an extent as completely to destroy the beauty of their appearance; giving them worse than the