

NOTES ON THE LIFE-HABITS OF ÆGERIIDÆ.—A specimen of *Melittia gloriosa* Hy. Edw., from San Diego, Cal., the food-habits of which, so far as I know, are not yet recorded, though the moth itself has been found flying around cucurbitaceous plants by Mr. Edwards, and it was naturally inferred that the larva might live, like its congener, *M. cucurbitæ*, in the roots of these plants. This species, however, was reared by Mr. F. E. Blasedale from the roots of *Rhus laurina*. The pupal exuvium shows that the spines are more strongly marked than in any other Ægerian with which I am acquainted, the frontal thorns being noticeably strong, and recalling the same parts in the larger *Asilidæ* and *Anthracidæ*.

*Egeria impropria* Hy. Edw. (specimens of imago, larva and pupa) is injurious, in the larval state, to strawberries in southern California. I have, for some years, known of great injury to strawberry roots by some borer of a Lepidopterous character, but the species had remained undetermined, as I had been unable to obtain specimens. As soon as I had an opportunity of examining some strawberry plants on the plantation of Mr. I. V. Wilcox, of Santa Clara, Cal., it was evident that the larva belonged to the *Ægeriidæ*. The larva of *impropria* has been hitherto unknown and the name may be said, paradoxically, to be quite proper, and yet quite improper; for Mr. Edwards had also described a species of *Ægeria* by the name of *fragariæ*, the larva of which was not yet known, though Mr. Edwards informs me that it was found on the flowers of strawberry. The bred material shows that *impropria* is very variable in colorational markings of the body.

A third *Ægeriid* exhibited is the very pretty *Phemonoë 5-caudata* Ridings, the larva of which I have received from Dr. J. C. Neal, of Archer, Fla., who found it boring in the root of a grafted Japan Persimmon. The imago issued April 11, 1887. I also exhibit specimens of *Sciapteron robinæ* from Los Angeles county, Cal., reared from larvæ boring in *Salix californica*; also specimens of *Ægeria albicornis* Hy. Edw. from southern California, reared from larvæ boring under the bark of *Salix californica*. An interesting fact connected with this last species is that the type is from Centre, N. Y., where the larva is not known; so that the species occurs on both coasts.

Finally, a specimen of the very small *Ægeria pyri* Harr., bred at the Department of Agriculture from apple, is included.

COLOR-VARIATION IN THE LARVA OF AGRAULIS VANILLÆ.—I would also call attention to an interesting variation which I noticed at Los Angeles in the coloration of the larva of *Agraulis vanillæ*. The eastern form of this larva is generally reddish or vinous-brown in color, with an indication of two darker longitudinal rays, as my notes and preserved material, and the figures by Smith and Abbott and the older authors show. Those found at Los Angeles were very striking by virtue of the general color being of a bright leaden-blue or pale indigo-blue, with a broad bright lateral cream-colored stripe more or less diversified with ferruginous, the head distinctly marked with vertical pale vittæ and with a pale crown.