

*By D. Phil. Fisher
with the best wishes of
Edw. M. V. V.*

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“The aspect of external nature, as it presents itself in its generality to thoughtful contemplation, is that of unity in diversity, and of connection, resemblance, and order, among created things most dissimilar in their form—one fair harmonious whole. To seize this unity and this harmony, amid such an assemblage of objects and forces,—to embrace alike the discoveries of the earliest ages and those of our own time,—and to analyze the details of phænomena without sinking under their mass, are efforts of human reason in the path wherein it is given to man to press towards the full comprehension of nature, to unveil a portion of her secrets, and, by force of thought, to subject, so to speak, to his intellectual dominion, the rough materials which he collects by observation.”

Alexander Von Humboldt.

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JOHN VAN VOORST, 1, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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and the elytra more strongly striated, with smoother interstices. The male is always the narrowest, and has the apical segment of the abdomen beneath longitudinally striated, strongly, and somewhat unevenly; the middle striæ being not so closely packed as those on the sides.

O. fuscipes appears to be rather the larger of the two. Typically, it is elongate, almost glabrous, with the thorax closely and delicately granulated, and not longer than broad; and the elytra oblong, crenate-striate, with the interstices obsolete rugose. The chief varieties have the elytra either more deeply striated, with the interstices more strongly rugulose, or (*fagi*) closely rugulose-tuberculate, with scarcely any striæ, or the disc of the thorax closely punctulated. The legs are often bright red; but this is also the case in some examples of *tenebricosus*.

In the male (which is still narrower than the female), the last segment of the abdomen is delicately, closely, and evenly longitudinally striated beneath.

Apart from the sexual character, it will thus be seen that *O. fuscipes* is a narrower, more elongate insect than *tenebricosus*; with no scanty patches of pubescence, a shorter and broader thorax, and the elytra either more deeply striated or with more rugose interstices.

I shall be glad if the present reference to the subject causes an examination of specimens from different localities; as there is no reason why we should not have *fuscipes* as well as *tenebricosus*.

With regard to *O. ambiguus*, recorded as British by De Marscul (Cat Col. d'Eur., 1863), and by Stierlin (loc. cit., 281), I may remark that I have taken specimens, answering very well to its description, at Rannoch, under the same stone as *O. rugifrons*, to which it is assuredly *very* closely allied,—if distinct, which I doubt.

It should be somewhat narrower than *O. rugifrons*, and clothed more thickly with hairs; the thorax is somewhat more finely granulated, and the elytra are more finely punctate-striate, with the granulations of the interstices not arranged in such distinct rows. The rostrum and vertex are more rugose-punctate, the punctures (though scarcely more distinct than in *rugifrons*) running into longitudinal rugulæ; the rostrum, moreover, is distinctly keeled in the middle, with an obsolete longitudinal furrow on each side. The second joint of the funiculus should be almost shorter than the first, instead of somewhat longer, as in *O. rugifrons*.

O. impoticus, found in France, appears to be very closely allied to *rugifrons*; but having the rostrum slightly keeled, the thoracic granulations larger, more obtuse, and setiferous, and the elytra more deeply striated, with level and delicately granulated interstices.

O. Ghestleri, found in Switzerland, is also nearly allied to *rugifrons* and *impoticus*; differing from those species in being smaller and narrower, and having much less incrassate antennæ, of which the second joint of the funiculus is almost half as long again as the first.—E. C. RYE, 284, King's Road, Chelsea.

Further notes on Oligoneuria Rhenana.—In my notes on *Oligoneuria rhenana*, Imhoff. (Vol. I., p. 262), I stated that these ephemeropterous insects appear at Basle in the first days of September, as for many years back this had proved to be the rule. But I have since been informed, by one of my correspondents, that this

season was an exception to the rule, inasmuch as numerous swarms of these creatures appeared as early as the 25th and 26th July, which shows a difference of about a month in the time of their appearance.

It is natural to suppose that the remarkably hot and dry summer, with which Switzerland was favoured this year, has caused the waters of the river Rhine to attain that degree of warmth, which is necessary for the development of these insects, much earlier in the season than in other colder years; and I am told that, on those two evenings mentioned above, the water had at sunset a temperature of 19 degrees Réaumur, which is unusually warm for so late in the day.

Those of your readers who have never witnessed this beautiful scene of insect life, the dance of *Ephemeridæ*, may form an idea of the sight of the swarms of *Oligoneuria rhenana* if I tell them that at times a glance over the river will show it as if covered with a brilliant whitish undulating veil of gauze, rising and falling in a thousand different folds, and this spectacle reaching as far as the eye can follow the course of the river.

No wonder that the contemplation of such a wonderful phenomenon has given rise to reflections as in the following verse:—

“ And the fly that is born with the sinking sun,
To die ere the midnight hour,
May have deeper joy, ere his course is run,
Than man in his pride and power.
And the insects’ minutes be spared the fears
And the anxious doubts of our threescore years.”

As a further illustration of their prodigious numbers, I may add that one of my friends counted about 200 specimens in the cobwebs taken from one lamp-post near the river, and one can understand how accumulations of the dead bodies of another “day-fly” have received, in certain parts of Germany, the name of “*Uferas*” (carriion of the river banks).—ALBERT MÜLLER.

Correction to note on Limnephilus subcentralis.—I regret to say that I erroneously recorded this species as British in the last number of the Magazine. I had misplaced the labels on my types, and did not discover the mistake until I received the monograph, when my previous notice was already in type.—A. E. EATON, Cambridge, December 1st, 1865.

Argynnis Lathonia, &c., in Kent.—Whilst entomologising at Sandgate during the past autumn, I took several specimens of both *Colias Hyale* and *C. var. Helice*, the typical *C. Edusa* being the greatest profusion.

A friend of mine caught a fine specimen of *Argynnis Lathonia* at Tenterden last September.—M. A. ADDISON, Cranbrook, Kent.

Captures of Lepidoptera at Powick.—I have sent the names of a few insects captured by myself this season.

Thecla W-album, on flowers of grass, June 22nd, a new locality for this species; *Cymatophora ridens*, at light, April 17th; *Neuria saponariæ*, at light and sugar, end of May, this is a new locality; *Agrotis ravida* at light and sugar, middle of June; *Phorodesma bojularia*, a ♀, at dusk, June 19th; *Anticlea rubidata*, at light, June 20th; *Camptogramma fluviala*, at light, September 22nd.—G. J HEARDER, Powick, near Worcester, November, 1865.