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UNUSUAL COCOONS OF LIMACODES SCAPHA.

In October, 1887, Miss Ida M. Eliot sent me, from Nonquitt, Mass., several larvae of *L. scapha* on twigs of bayberry (*Myrica*).

To keep the food moist I put damp sand in a tin box, stuck the twigs into it, and placed the larvae on them.

One caterpillar made its cocoon in the usual way,—a tough, parchment-like case, but all the others spun bits of coarse sand into their cocoons, so that they look like nothing but lumps of sand. Beneath the sand, however, the cocoons show the normal kind and shape.

One larva added to the sand two bits of leaf, and the one which made the usual cocoon fastened it to a leaf.

Caroline G. Soule.

NOTE ON MELITAEA PHAETON.

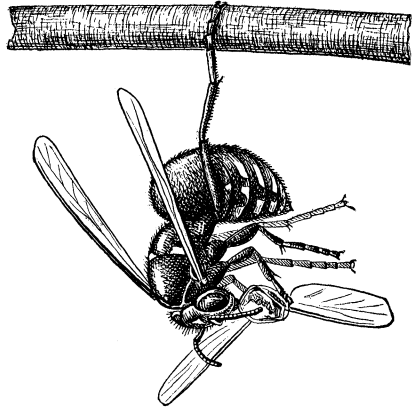
On the third of last August I found, in Jefferson Highlands, N. H., a nest of young larvae of *Melitaea phaeton*. It was formed, as described by Mr. W: H: Edwards, by drawing together the leaves of the *Chelone glabra*, and a fern had also been worked into its construction. I allowed the main part of the colony to remain where it was found, removing only a small detachment. The larvae that were removed ate one or two meals, certainly not more, before going into winter

quarters in a small nest which they constructed in their new home. Visiting the main colony of larvae from time to time through the month to compare their habits with those of the larvae in confinement, I was surprised, at that time not being familiar with their history, to find that they too had ceased to eat. On the twenty-seventh of the month I placed my smaller detachment in proximity to the larger community, often removing the smaller lot to a fresh sprig of *Chelone*, and found that the larvae soon rejoined their old companions, with whom they are now hibernating.

Holmes Hinkley.

HABIT OF VESPA.

While going through a swamp filled with alder bushes I noticed, hanging in the middle of one, a wasp devouring a fly in the position shown in the drawing. The wasp hung down by one foot. The abdomen was bent up out of the way. The half-eaten fly was held by the front feet, while the other legs and wings stuck out carelessly in all direc-



tions. As the mandibles and antennae kept in rapid motion and the fly was turned over and over by the fore feet, the wasp swung slowly back and forth with the same appearance of comfort and enjoyment as a man eating an apple in a hammock. When the fly had been reduced to wings and shell the wasp let it drop, got up on the twig and flew away.

James H: Emerton.



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