

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

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LOCALITIES OF SPECIES.

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We observed last week that our Butterflies nearly all occur in the South-Eastern corner of our Island—all but three. A hasty observer would hence deduce that those three were Northern species, but it is not so; they simply require certain localities which they do not find in the South-East of England. Yet they all occur in the South of Germany, and one of them in the South of Ireland; clearly then it is no especial partiality for a high parallel of latitude which prevents us catching *Blandina*, *Cassiope* and *Davus* in the South. Did we possess in Kent or Sussex a hill of sufficient elevation we might expect to find *Cassiope*, and a boggy moor on some portion of the hill would furnish us with *Davus*, whilst perchance some secluded valley or ravine would be enlivened by the gambols of *Blandina*.

It must strike every one with surprise that none of these three species have been met with in the mountainous districts of Wales, and even in the region of Dartmoor we fancy some of the fraternity might be advan-

tageously looked for. After we get to Manchester we find *Davus* northwards on all wet bogs and mosses, whether on low or high ground, and *Blandina* occurs freely at Wharfedale, in Yorkshire, and at Castle Eden Dene (henceforth to be protected from the incursions of the Million), and in Scotland its habitats are numerous. *Cassiope*, the only *Alpine* Butterfly we possess, comes no further South than the Cumberland mountains, though in Ireland it is found in Galway.

Some of our Butterflies are so excessively local that they do not inhabit regions or districts, but actual spots: thus *Thecla Pruni* seems confined to Monk's Wood, Huuts; *Pamphila Actæon* to Lulworth, Dorsetshire; *Papilio Machaon* is almost restricted to the Fens of Cambridge-shire and Norfolk; and the localities in which *Melitæa Cinxia*, *Polyommatus Arion* and *Acis*, and *Steropes Paniscus* occur in this country are also limited in number.

The circumstances which cause the restriction of a few species to such very confined localities are at present unknown to us. They are not so

restricted on the Continent; *P. Machaon* and *P. Acis* are universally distributed in Germany, where the former is a common garden and wood insect; and, with the single exception of *Pamphila Actæon*, all our other local species are very generally distributed in Germany, though not occurring in every district.

Dr. Dickie, at Aberdeen last month, suggested that there might be some peculiarity in the food of these local species; but, though *Machaon* is with us extremely partial in our Fens to *Peucedanum palustre*, yet on the Continent it feeds indifferently on a number of Umbelliferæ, not disdaining even the common carrot. And that *Cinxia* should be almost confined to the Isle of Wight, when its larva feeds on the ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*),—a plant common enough at Aberdeen and through all the intervening country, sufficiently demonstrates that it is not the restricted range of the food-plant which is the cause of these Butterflies being confined to areas of such small extent.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. H., REGENSBURG.—XI. duly received; thanks. The grass appears to be *Sesleria*, but we much doubt whether the larva is *Adscitella*; notice the locality well and revisit it in April, as these larvæ will probably not be fed up till spring.