

Cooke, they were captured in the Isle of Wight, between Ventnor and Niton, in May, 1867; four males and five females were taken. It is the largest European species of Colletes, and is the *C. hirta* of Continental authors, which name, however, must give place to *cunicularia* of Linnæus, the type of which is extant in the Linnean collection.

Mr. M'Lachlan exhibited a gigantic species of Ephemeriidæ, about three inches in expanse of wings. It had been received by Mr. Salvin, from Veragua; and was probably the *Palingenia Hecuba* of Dr. Hagen.

Mr. Butler exhibited varieties of several butterflies, captured by him in Switzerland, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Chamounix, in July and August, 1868. There were—(1) *Anthocharis Cardamines*, with the black spot on the fore-wings very small, the black edging confined to the tip of the wing, and the orange colour extending considerably within the black spot—this seemed to be the normal type of the insect in Switzerland; (2) *Colias Edusa*, remarkable for its large size; (3) *Epinephele Janira*, one specimen very dark, another very light in colour—the former was the common type in Switzerland; (4) *Argynnis Aglaia*, with the hind-wings almost entirely black, and the silvery spots on the under side covering the basal and apical parts of the wing; (5) *Melitæa Athalia*, four varieties, varying from almost entirely black to almost entirely fulvous; and (6) *Parnassius Apollo*, with small pale ocelli, the ordinary pink markings being pale yellow. Mr. Butler added that *Leucophasia Sinapis*, the “wood white” as we term it, was common all over Switzerland, not in woods, but in the neighbourhood of water.

Mr. Stainton, who had just returned from Italy, made some remarks on the different habits of the same species in different localities; for instance, at Cannes, Mentone, and other places in the South of Europe, *Pyrameis Atalanta* was the commonest hibernating butterfly. The species was to be seen everywhere, whilst in this country a hibernated specimen was never seen before April, and rarely before the time when the hawthorn is in blossom.

Mr. Hewitson sent for exhibition a number of butterflies collected in Nicaragua by Mr. Belt; there were twelve species new to Science, and several others which were not previously in Mr. Hewitson's cabinet. The *Papilio* mentioned at the Meeting of 15th February (*ante*, p. iv.) was believed to be the female of *P. Childrenæ*, a species distinct from *P. Sesostris*.

Mr. Hewitson also sent for exhibition two new species of *Papilio*, from Ecuador, whence they were received by Mr. James Backhouse. As an incident of collecting in Ecuador, it might be mentioned that the captor and his mule were thrown over a precipice together; the gentleman had his head cut and one of his arms broken, and in this plight had to ride for seven days in search of a doctor.

The President exhibited seven forms of *Papilio* belonging to the *Machaon* group. Mr. Christopher Ward had purchased the Japanese collection of butterflies from the Paris Exhibition: it included *Papilio Machaon* and *Xuthus*, and a third form, which proved to be the *P. Xuthulus* of Bremer, who described it as being intermediate between the other two; it was first captured in Amoor-land, and the captor took it for a hybrid between *Machaon* and *Xuthus*, until it was noticed that its time of appearance was a month earlier than either of the other species. For comparison with these Japanese forms, the President added *P. Zelicaon* and *Asterias*, and two other American forms: he observed that in Europe *P. Machaon* was very constant, and that the allied forms in America



exhibited but slight variation from the same type; but in North-Eastern Asia the group appeared to be more unstable, for although the true *Machaon* was there found, it was associated with two other forms exhibiting greater divergency from the typical form. This was another instance, analogous to what he had before recorded respecting the *Theonoe* group of the genus *Leptalis*, in which a certain type of form was found to be constant at the opposite ends of its area of distribution, but was liable to variation in intermediate localities; thus tending to show that the development or manufacture of new species takes place, not necessarily over the whole range of distribution of the particular type, but only in limited areas of the total range, where and when the particular circumstances are most favourable to variation.

A letter from Mr. H. L. Schrader was read by the Secretary; the writer described some of his observations on species of *Æceticus*, from which he inferred that those species are viviparous.

#### *Papers read.*

The following papers were read:—"Descriptions of two New Species of *Papilio* from Ecuador," and "Descriptions of six New Species of Diurnal Lepidoptera from Nicaragua;" by Mr. Hewitson.

"Contributions to an Insect Fauna of the Amazon Valley (Coleoptera, Prionides)." By the President.

"Synopsis of the Species of *Panorpa* occurring in Europe and the adjoining Countries; with a Description of a New Species from Java." By Mr. M'Lachlan.

April 5, 1869.

H. W. BATES, Esq., President, in the chair.

#### *Additions to the Library.*

The following donations were announced, and thanks voted to the donors:—"Proceedings of the Royal Society," No. 109; presented by the Society. "Journal of the Agricultural Society of England," 2nd Ser., vol. v., Part 1; by the Society. "Mittheilungen der Schweizerischen entomologischen Gesellschaft," vols. 1 and 2; by the Society. "Studien an Acariden," von Edouard Claparède; by Sir John Lubbock, Bart. "Die Otiorhynchiden s. str. nach den morphologischen Verwandtschaftsverhältnissen ihres Hautscelet's vergleichend dargestellt, von Georg Seidlitz;" by the Author. "Report on the Culture of the Japanese Silkworm, *Bombyx Yama-mai*, in 1867-8, in England," by Dr. Wallace; by the Author. "The Insect Hunter's Year-Book for 1868," and "The Zoologist" for April; by the Editor, E. Newman, Esq. "The Entomologists' Monthly Magazine" for April; by the Editors.

The following addition by purchase was also announced:—Gemminger and Von Harold, "Catalogus Coleopterorum hucusque descriptorum," Tom. iii.

#### *Exhibitions, &c.*

Mr. Pascoe exhibited a new genus of *Diaperinæ* from Espiritu Santo, in which the horns on the head between or above the eyes, which distinguish many of the males of *Platydema*, *Diaperis*, *Hoplocephala*, &c., were transferred to the apex of the prothorax;