

yellow; while *fuligana* has rounded fore-wings and dark grey cilia. But the most conspicuous character is the square pale yellow blotch at the anal angle in *postremana*.—Id.: *June 10th*, 1878.

Acherontia Atropos in the County Cork.—I have to record the appearance and capture of a specimen of *A. Atropos* at the same place (viz., Schull) as before chronicled (*vide* vol. xiv, p. 153, *ante*). This specimen was captured at 9.30 on the evening of June 8th last, and is now in my possession.—WILLIAM W. FLEMING, The Vicarage, Glengarriff, Co Cork: *June 17th*, 1878.

The Scandinavian Psyllidæ.—In the 8th fasciculus of his "Opuscula Entomologica" (1877), Professor C. G. Thomson gives, *more suo*, a Synopsis of the Scandinavian *Psyllidæ* under the title of "Öfversigt af Skandinaviens Chermesarter," reverting to the name *Chermes*, under which Linné, in 1742, characterized this Section of the *Homoptera*, and to which Geoffroy, in 1762, applied the name *Psylla*, rejecting Linné's name as erroneously used, because *Chermes*, in ancient time, designated the insect which afforded the famous Tyrian dye (*Coccus ilicis*, Lin.); and there is no doubt that, on the ground of priority, Thomson is right in his restoration, though, on the other hand, most authors have followed Geoffroy. Thomson's object in this article is, he says, partly to recapitulate Zetterstedt's species, and partly to divide the Section into small natural groups by means of characters never before utilized for this purpose, namely, the form of the head, pronotum, elytra, and posterior coxæ. As to genera, he adopts—*Trioza* (with *Trichopsylla* as a new sub-genus for *T. Walkeri*); *Chermes* *vice Psylla* (with, as sub-genus, *Atania* *vice Arytæna* for *C. genistæ*, and *Psylla* for the other species); *Aphalara*, *Rhinocola* and *Livia*. To Zetterstedt is given the credit of having first pointed out the essential character of the neurulation of the elytra as of the greatest importance both in distinguishing species and in grouping them.

In *Trioza* 11 species are enumerated:—*Walkeri*, Foerst.; *galii*, Foerst.; *obliqua*, n. sp. (near *albiventris*); *dryobia*, Flor.; *acutipennis*, Zett., = *femoralis*, Flor.; *striola*, Flor.; *nigricornis*, Foerst.; *urticæ*, Lin.; *viridula*, Zett.; *proxima*, Flor.; and *hypoleuca*, n. sp. (near *obliqua*).

In *Chermes* are 24 species:—*genistæ*, Latr., = *spartii*, Hartig; *fraxini*, Lin.; *fraxinicola*, Foerst.; *sorbi*, Lin.; *fuscata*, Zett., = *alpina*, Foerst., = *perspicillata*, Flor.; *buxi*, Lin.; *alni*, Lin., = *Heydeni*, Foerst., = *fuscinervis*, Foerst.; *Foersteri*, Flor., = *viridis*, Hartig, = *alni*, Foerst.; *betulæ*, Lin.; *Zetterstedti*, n. sp. (very like *salicicola* in colour, rather smaller than *betulæ*); *lutea*, Thoms., = *saliceti*, Flor. (*nec* Foerst.); *quercus*, Lin., = *costato-punctata*, Foerst., = *annulicornis*, Boh.; *puncticosta*, n. sp. (very like *quercus*, but much larger and more obscure in colour); *pyri*, De Geer (hitherto attributed to Linné); *mali*, Foerst. (Löw cites Schmidberger as the older authority for this name); *annellata*, n. sp. (like *mali*, but differing in the neurulation and the genitalia); *nigrita*, Zett., = *pulchra*, Zett.; *elegantula*, Zett.; *obliqua*, n. sp. (like the preceding, but differing in the neurulation and the genitalia); *Hartigi*, Flor., = *sylvicola*, Reut. (Reuter cites Lethierry); *microptera*, n. sp. (like *obliqua* in form, and *salicicola* in the genitalia); *pruni*, Scop.; *saliceti*, Foerst.; and *salicicola*, Foerst.

In *Aphalara* 6 species:—*exilis*, Ljungh (otherwise attributed to Weber and Mohr); *affinis*, Zett.; *calthæ*, Lin., = *picta*, Zett.; *nervosa*, Foerst.; *artemisiæ*, Foerst.; *graminis*, Lin., = *nebulosa*, Zett., = *radiata*, Scott.

In *Rhinocola* 2 species:—*aceris*, Lin.; *ericæ*, Curt., = *callunæ*, Boh.

In *Livia* 1 species:—*juncorum*, Zett. (more properly Latr.).

Chermes sorbi, *quercus*, *calthæ*, and *graminis*, of Linné, have puzzled every one for more than a century, and yet they are here referred to as a matter of course. When a species can be undoubtedly referred to the description of an old author his name ought certainly to be adopted, but it is not stated on what evidence the conclusions have been arrived at with regard to these species so long hidden from recognition.

Chermes sorbi, Lin.: Thomson's description fairly agrees with Linné's.

„ *quercus*, Lin., has “4 brown spots on the anterior margin and one on the interior margin of the elytra”:—Thomson's is “orange spotted with white; elytra hyaline with pale nerves,”—and not a word about brown spots.

„ *calthæ*, Lin.: Thomson says, = *picta*, Zett., but Reuter gives *polygoni*, Foerst., as the only synonym, and enumerates *picta*, Zett., as a distinct species.

„ *graminis*, Lin., has “pedes non saltatorii,” which would at least make it doubtful if it were one of the *Psyllidæ* at all, but this is not noticed by Thomson, who gives it as = *nebulosa*, Zett., = *radiata*, Scott; which last species, at any rate, does not accord with Thomson's words “elytris fere ut in *A. exili* nebulosis.”

One cannot but admire the wonderful succinctness of Thomson's diagnoses, but it is doubtful if they are sufficient to differentiate new species, especially if the particular species, with which comparison is made, is not before the student; and no dimensions are given. Neither are the plants on which the insects are found, nor the times of their appearance mentioned, both being possibly due to the fact, stated by the author, that he has rarely collected any of the species himself; but they are serious deficiencies for all who would desire to capture them. The authors who have described species of *Psyllidæ* since the times of Foerster and Flor are only twice, and then incidentally, referred to; it is, therefore, not at all improbable that some of the species deemed to be new have been already described by them.—J. W. DOUGLAS, 8, Beaufort Gardens, Lewisham: April 30th, 1878.

Notes on Cynipidæ and Aphides.—I found, on the 5th of April last, a very common Cynipid, the *Neuroterus lenticularis*, laying its eggs in the bud of a young oak in my garden. I could adjust a glass tube over the insect without disturbing it in its operation, and saw how it repeated five times the act of inserting its terebra in the bud. The following day it was dead, and I had it put in my collection. I destroyed all buds of the branch except the attacked one, and surrounded the branch with a bag of muslin; the leaves soon displayed themselves, and three of them showed after about a fortnight the well known galls of another Cynipid, the *Spathogaster baccarum*, viz., three on one leaf and one on each of the others. On the 5th of May, the winged “*Spathogaster*” made its appearance. This fact is a new confirmation of Dr. Adler's discovery on the dimorphism of *Cynipidæ*.*

* Vide p. 12, ante.—EDS.