

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FARMER'S OWN INSECTICIDE.

Dear Sir : Take plants of Pokeweed, (*Phytolacca decandra*), roots, stems and leaves ; cut them into manageable lengths ; make a decoction—a sap-kettle will be useful for the purpose. Let the liquor cool, and then apply with a sprinkler. This will exterminate the currant-worm, rose-slug and other pests of the garden.

THOMAS W. FYLES.

GNOPHÆLA VERMICULATA, Grote.

Dear Sir : Last year Mr. Bruce published a description of the larva of this insect, giving the food-plant as *Mertensia virginica* (L.) As Prof. J. B. Smith has repeated this record in CAN. ENT. XXI., p. 174, it becomes especially necessary to point out that it is probably erroneous. In the first place, *M. virginica* is not known to occur in Colorado, and the species known from the Platte basin, in that State, are *M. sibirica*, Don., *M. alpina*, Don., and *M. paniculata*, Don.,—the last a new record, being reported from Denver by Miss A. Eastwood. Secondly, the larva of *G. vermiculata* is common in Custer County from 8,000 to 10,000 feet alt., and is found on *Mertensia sibirica*, although I have rarely found it also on *Echinosperrum floribundum*, Lehm. I think, therefore, we may regard *M. sibirica* and *E. floribundum* as the known food-plants of *G. vermiculata*, and throw over *M. virginica* as erroneous, unless Mr. Bruce has anything to say to the contrary. I have elsewhere described the larva and pupa of this insect, and as I have since found the egg, this will be a convenient time to offer a description:—*G. vermiculata*: egg, diam. one mill; spherical, flattened at base; pale yellow, smooth, rather shiny. Laid in clusters on leaves of *M. sibirica*. Micawber Mine, Brush Creek, Custer Co., Colo., about 10,000 feet alt., or over. August, 1889. *G. vermiculata* occurs very abundantly in the higher regions of the Arkansas Basin in Colorado, but I have not heard of it on the Pacific slope. It flies lazily by day, visiting especially the flowers of *Senecia* and *Gymnolomia*.

West Cliff, Custer Co., Colo.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Mailed November 5th.