

## MELITÆA PHAETON.

About the first of July I was informed by Mr. W. E. Saunders that  
society before, when out on one of his Ornithological and Botanical  
excursions, he had seen *Melitæa phaeton*, in a cedar swamp, two miles  
from Komoka station, which is ten miles west of London, on the Grand  
Trunk line. I took the first favourable opportunity of getting a sign of  
that insect alive, which occurred on the ninth. I found the swamp, and  
soon saw the butterflies disporting themselves in the sunny spots, seem-  
ingly quite plentiful. They would not have been difficult to secure had  
the footing been solid, but a previous heavy rain had set that afloat. I  
took five, and saw quite as many more during the short stay I made in  
the woods. J. ALSTON MOFFAT.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## PETROPHORA SILACEATA.

*Dear Sirs* At our recent annual gathering the Rev. T. W. Fyles had  
brought with him a box of insects for the purpose of obtaining their  
names if he could. Amongst them was a Geometer, which I recognized  
as identical with one I have had for four years awaiting a name. When  
Captain Geddes arrived he also had another of the same kind amongst  
the material which he had brought. As no clue to its identity could be  
obtained from the authors we consulted, I thought the time had now  
arrived when we ought to know something about it, so I applied at  
headquarters for information, going into communication with the Rev.  
Geo. D. Hulst, who kindly returned my specimen with the name  
*Petrophora silaceata*, Hub. It proves to be an exceedingly interesting  
species, widespread and variable. Mr. Hulst mentioned that one of his  
specimens is from Labrador, sent to him by Moeschler. As I could not  
find the name in any of our N. A. catalogues, I turned to the European,  
and found it in Edward Newman's "Illustrated Natural History of  
British Moths" as *Cidaria silaceata*, Hub. It is therein illustrated by  
figures of six well defined varieties. Newman does not give any variety  
names, but Mr. Hulst determines my specimen to be "var. *deflavata*,  
Stdgr.," yet it is not identical with any of Newman's figures, although  
closely resembling the sixth, which is one of the least ornate. Newman  
says: "The moth appears in May, and a second brood in August, and is  
regarded as common in England, Scotland and Ireland."

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J. ALSTON MOFFAT.