

oblique line before the apices. Hind wings fuscous with whitish fringes. *Expanse* 24 mil. *Hab.* Vancouver Island, Coll. Mr. Hy. Edwards, No. 5927. This species is narrower winged than *fuscicostellus* and paler, more ochrey colored.

CRAMEUS (PROPEXUS) EDONIS, n. s.

♂ ♀. Male antennæ lengthily pectinate. Labial palpi excessively long. Front flat, not acuminate and produced as in *vulgivagellus*. On these characters I found the new group, including in it *pexellus*, *pectinifer*, *edonis* and an unnamed Texan form, perhaps the same as the latter. The new species is allied to *pexellus*; male antennæ bipectinate; fore wings pale salmon red, without markings, dusted on the interspaces longitudinally, and especially terminally with fuscous. Palpi dark externally. Beneath dark fuscous; costa of primaries reddish over basal two-thirds. Legs fuscous. Hind wings fuscous with paler fringes. Fringes on primaries fuscous. Thorax fuscous; tegulæ and head reddish. *Expanse* 36 mil. *Hab.* Kansas, Prof. Snow. One fresh specimen, No. 288; one male, two females from Mr. Ashton. The females are plainer and more faintly colored, the antennæ are simple, the hind wings paler.

I have received from Texas a form which has paler hind wings in the male and has not the reddish tinge of *edonis*. Entirely pale dusty ochre. Male antennæ bipectinate. Wings apparently narrower than in *edonis*, but as long, longer than in *pexellus*. Fore wings ochrey with faint fuscous shades and traces of brighter longitudinal tints. No markings. Hind wings whitish at base, becoming dusty ochrey outwardly. *Expanse* ♂ 33, ♀ 38 mil. *Hab.* Texas (Belfrage, No. 454; Belfrage's number for *pexellus* is 455). Three specimens examined. This form may fall in with *edonis* on the discovery of fresher specimens, but it is not unlikely distinct.

CORRESPONDENCE.

I have again to record the scarcity of butterflies during the past year, not only in the vicinity of St. John, but in other parts of this Province and in Nova Scotia. This scarcity is particularly noticeable in some of our more common species, which a few years ago were so numerous. I did not observe a single specimen of *P. cardui* or *P. huntera* last summer, although the larvæ were so abundant in 1878. *Pieris rapæ* and *Colias philodice* are fast disappearing from this locality. Botanists who have visited distant parts of N. B. during the past summer, in their collecting

tours, inform me that they have seen very few butterflies of any species. Intelligent—non-scientific—observers in Nova Scotia furnish me with like information. Moths have also been exceedingly scarce. Indeed, this scarcity is observable in all kinds of insects, with the exception of a few species of Dragon-flies, which have been unusually abundant near St. John.

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On July 18th three examples of *Spilosoma virginica* Fabr. emerged from their cocoons. The larvæ were fed on sorrel. One of the moths (a female) has a very curious process on each side of the thorax in front, near the costa of the fore wings at the base. They are globular in form; of a pale yellowish color, but with a vitreous lustre, and look like another pair of eyes that protrude from the head somewhat, except in color. Their diameter would measure, I should think, about one-half line. On touching the organs with an instrument I found them quite hard, and apparently of a permanent nature. I have raised several others this season of both sexes, but in none of them was there any trace of these processes, as far as I could see. I have never seen upon any insect, nor have I ever seen described any organs that correspond at all with these. If any one would like to examine this specimen, I will forward it to them for that purpose.

Aug. 1st I accidentally made a discovery that thereafter facilitated the capture of many species of moths, and thinking that it might be new to other collectors, I give it for their benefit. As I was returning home from my baited trees I beat a few bushes for moths as usual, when on beating a particular clump of scrub oaks a large number of moths flew out, many of them quite large Noctuids. I saw that there must be an unusual attraction there, but what it was I did not then find out. Many of the moths returned to the bushes again soon after being routed. At the time of discovery there must have been several hundreds in the clump, for I captured about a hundred in from fifteen to twenty minutes. I afterwards obtained a large number of moths there, and found that the greatest attraction seemed to be a sort of gummy juice (probably saccharine) that existed in the new buds that were nearly matured for another season's growth, although they were also found more or less plentifully on the youngest stems and leaves. Although other clumps of scrub oaks were afterwards examined, I found very few in other localities. I obtained from this clump of oaks many species that I had never taken before, and that I found no where else.

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