

expression of individual opinion, and it seems to me that this example might very profitably be followed by other similar societies.

I am authorized to state that this committee unanimously sustain the name of *Eros* Edw. as applied to the dark species, and *Floridensis* Streck. as applying to the dark variety of *L. Mississippi* which ranges from Illinois to Florida.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE USE OF THE FORCEPS OF FORFICULA.

I just happen to hit upon Dr. J. G. Morris's article on the functions of the forceps of Forficula (Can. Entom. 1877, p. 218), and it reminds me of a statement on the same subject in E. Newman's "Zoologist," 1850, p. 2,695, which however differs in its details, and deserves therefore to be reproduced here. The article is signed: John Williams, Royal Astronomical Society, Somerset House; the insect was *Labia minor*, and the principal passage runs thus: "Upon arriving at the highest point it could attain (on a book upon which it had alighted) the insect stood quite still and raised the elytra; it then, with a very quick motion, thrust the point of one of the caudal appendages, close to the body, under the wing, which was unfolded by its agency; this being repeated on the other side, both wings were fully expanded and the insect briskly flew away, etc." According to Mr. Morris, the insect *lifted up the short elytra with his forceps, before the wings would expand*. Both passages may perhaps be reconciled, only the former is more explicit in the statement that it is *the wing* which requires the help of the forceps in expanding.

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The determination of *Alaus* published by Mr. J. T. Bell, on p. 59 of your last issue (xiii., No. 3) as *gorgops* is perhaps erroneous. I know that species (the older name of which is *lusciosus* Hope, v. Crotch List, Suppl. 27) from no locality north of the western part of Louisiana and Texas. The Canadian form *must* be *A. ocutatus*.

In this connection, I would observe that a determination unless as authentic as possible, is liable to produce serious error if published as a contribution to a faunal list.

J. L. LECONTE.

Philadelphia, March 28th, 1881.