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"It requires less time to make a false statement than to refute it, and there will ever be those who prefer to theorize and jump to conclusions, rather than ascertain facts by the more tedious and laborious inductive method."—*C. V. Riley.*

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Ephemeridæ in brackish-water streamlets.—About a mile south-westwards of Hammam-es-Salahin, Biskra, near a low crater-like hill of volcanic rock, and two little reed-fringed pools (a place for dragons), two or three trickling streamlets cut deep gullies through sandy clay. The water is salt enough to leave a taste behind for an hour after rinsing the mouth, and is inhabited by minute seashore Mollusca of the genus *Hydrobia*. It is, therefore, rather surprising to find nymphs of *Ephemeridæ* quite at home with these water-snails. The species most in evidence is *Cloëon dipterum*, L.; its nymphs are plentiful. But from the presence of a female imago of *Cænis halterata*, F., floating on the surface of one of the streamlets, as if drowned while ovipositing, there is reason to suspect that nymphs of this species also might be discovered on the clay at the bottom, if carefully looked after.—A. E. Eaton, Biskra, Algeria: *April*, 1895.

Further Notes from Biskra, Algeria.—Very little rain having fallen this winter near Biskra, herbage is greatly dwarfed in the Ziban in comparison with the growth of last year. Simultaneously several of the *Lepidoptera* that were in abundance last spring, viz., *Pyrameis cardui*, *Plusia gamma* and *Plutella cruciferarum*, have appeared this season in scanty numbers. *P. cardui*, however, was fairly common for a few weeks from the end of January. *Stenopteryx hybridalis* and one of the *Noctuæ* are also much fewer than they were a year ago, and are more restricted in their topographical range; the former was common in February (when a brood issued) and March, in places.

An additional food-plant for *Papilio Machaon* may be noted. Larvæ occur sparingly on umbels of *Ferula vesceritensis*, Cosson and Durieu, a plant akin to *Peucedanum*, employed for blistering by the Arabs.

There is no scarcity of such *Lepidoptera* as feed on perennial plants in the Ziban. Larvæ of *Deilephila euphorbiæ* are as abundant now as ever, and so are those of the Fritillary on the *Linariæ* and *Autirrhinum*. The number of swallow-tails on the wing has also undergone no diminution this season, and larvæ abound. —Id.

Aëpophilus Bonnairii with an abnormal antenna.—Mr. J. H. Keys, of Plymouth, has had the kindness to send me three living specimens of this insect which he had just captured. One of them is remarkable for having an aberrant number of joints in the right antenna, there being but three instead of four, as in the other one. The 2nd joint is slightly lengthened and thickened, the third (now the terminal) is shortened, thickened and abruptly ended. On former occasions, when noting similar deformations in the *Lygæidæ*, in which Family almost only they have been noticed (vols. ii, 270, iii, 200, xiii, 189), I have ventured to think they have been caused by the casual amputation of the last normal joint just before the final moult of the integument, and that the effort to restore the antenna has resulted in the elongation of the 2nd and thickening of the 3rd joint, but never in the restoration of an entire 4th joint.—J. W. Douglas, 153, Lewisham Road, S.E.: *May 12th*, 1895.

Echinomyia ursina, Mg., again common.—It may be worth while recording the occurrence of this usually rare insect for the second year in succession in considerable numbers at Wyre Forest during Easter. Although common, it was not in such