

dissimilarity of the sexes in *Pleocoma*, which genus has been placed by Leconte in the distant coprophagous series of Lamellicorns. Quite recently Gerstäcker has pointed out² the close relationship which exists between *Pleocoma* and the European genus *Pachypus*, the latter an undoubted melolonthian. The females in these genera resemble each other closely, and in both are without wings or wing-covers.

It seems probable that Leconte was somewhat misled by the determination of a larva described by Osten Sacken as that of *Pleocoma*.³ This larva is supposed by Gerstäcker to belong to a lucanid beetle, but it may with greater

probability be conjectured to be the larva of a *Geotrupes*.

Between the females of *Hypotrichia* and those of *Pleocoma* evidences of relationship are not wanting, and as both must now be considered members of the melolonthian series, a closer comparison than has yet been made will possibly bring the two genera into still more intimate relations. The series of genera, *Hypotrichia*, *Plectrodes* and *Pleocoma*, exhibits a very instructive passage from a winged insect with active powers of flight, as in the male of *Hypotrichia*, to the degraded, wingless, and wholly subterranean female of *Pleocoma*.

² Entom zeit . . . Stettin, 1883, jahrg. 44, p. 436.

³ Trans. amer. entom. soc., 1874, v. 5, p. 84.

DRINKING HABIT OF A MOTH.¹—E. D. Jones describes a remarkable drinking habit of a yellow and black Brazilian moth (*Panthera* [corr.] *pardalaria*). He found these moths sitting on the wet stones in small streams near San Paulo, sucking up the water in a continuous stream, and letting it escape in drops from the abdomen. These drops fell at the average rate of 50 per minute, and as near as he could judge of their size, the total quantity of water which must thus pass through the body of the moth in three hours must be a cubic inch, or about 200 times the bulk of its own body. Mr. Jones speculates on the possible meaning of this

and asks—"Can it be that the moth extracts nourishment from minute particles of organic matter contained in the water?" He remarks, however, that the water of the streams appear very clear and pure, and notes that the moths seems specially adapted for this habit. The tibiae of the hind legs are very thick, and are armed with long hairs, which by their capillary action prevent the moth being immersed in the water. "I have often," he adds, "seen one of them knocked down by a little spurt of water splashing over the stone on which it was standing, and it recovered itself almost immediately without being wetted in the least."—*Journ. roy. micros. soc.*, Oct. 1884, s. 2, v. 4, p. 741.

¹ Proc. lit. and phil. soc. Liverpool, 1883, v. 37, p. 76-77.



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