

**A NOTE ON REARING, FROM LARVAE, SARBENA (ROESELIA) MINUSCULA ZELL**

On three occasions while "beating" Garry Oak *Quercus garryana* Dougl., in the Uplands District of Victoria, B. C., the writer obtained larvae which proved to be *Sarbena minuscula* Zell. The first time was on August 1, 1946, when 11 larvae were secured. These were "sleeved" on Oak in the writer's garden, but although they showed evidence of feeding, they failed to mature. The next occasions were on July 3, 1947, when 39 larvae were taken, and on July 17, 1947, when 14 more were added to the batch.

Slightly different treatment for rearing the larvae was used. A ten-inch flower-pot was prepared, with about six inches of earth at the bottom into which a small glass bottle for water was firmly fixed to supply the food plant with moisture. Moss mingled with bits of lichen was then placed loosely over the earth in the pot together with lichen-covered branches of oak and a good supply of fresh oak foliage.

The larvae were observed to feed on the foliage to

a considerable extent, and they reached maturity and cocooned amongst the lichen, chiefly that upon the small pieces of branch supplied. The cocoons were wintered in the same flower-pot, on a porch with a northerly aspect, where they were exposed to cold and wind, but sheltered from rain or snow. Twenty-two imagines were obtained the following season between May 30 and June 4, 1948.

It would appear that successful breeding depends on the presence of lichen together with the food plant, though the foliage of the oak is undoubtedly eaten by the larvae to a considerable extent. Possibly they require the lichen only when near maturity, and chiefly as a medium in which to construct their small and cleverly concealed cocoons. It may also afford some moisture, necessary to the safe appearance of the imagines the following season.—J. R. J. Llewellyn Jones, Cobble Hill, B. C.

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