

NOTES ON MIMICRY AND VARIATION.

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(Frontispiece.)

Recently there were added to the Australian Museum cabinets specimens of *Phœnicops porphyropis*, Meyr. & Low., and *Milionia queenslandica*, Roths. All were obtained from Mr. F. P. Dodd, of Kuranda, N. Queensland. They are particularly interesting from the fact that the former is apparently a mimic of the latter.

The Skipper, *P. porphyropis* (Front., fig. 1), has dark fuscous wings, suffused with iridescent purple; on the forewing there is a moderately broad transverse bright yellow band, the edges of which are irregularly dentate, whilst on the hindwing, at the termen, and just below the apex, there is a rather narrow patch of yellow. Except in point of size there is no apparent difference between the male and female forms, the latter being somewhat the larger of the two. They are really beautiful insects, and although rare in collections, may nevertheless be fairly prevalent in the deep recesses of the rich tropical jungle of Northern Queensland.

The moth, *M. queenslandica* (Front., fig. 2), like the butterfly, has dark fuscous wings. The forewings have each a broad, transverse, bright yellow band, the edges of which are uneven; the hinder angle has a somewhat dusky crimson bar, and this terminates in and suffuses the lower extremity of the transverse yellow bar. In some examples the crimson bar is much more vivid than in others. The lower wings are edged and dentated with yellow, and each is further ornamented with a large, irregularly-shaped concolourous spot.

Although obviously distinct from one another, it would nevertheless be an exceedingly difficult matter to differentiate between the two when on the wing and in flight. Our Australian Lepidoptera, although presenting numerous instances of protective colouration, affords very little in the way of true mimicry. For this reason such an instance as the one referred to above is decidedly interesting.

The genus *Hypolimnas*, Hübn. (= *Diadema*, Boisd.), is apparently, as pointed out by Wallace, of Austro-Malayan origin. Of the fifteen species and their numerous varieties all, with the excep-