

LEPIDOPTERA. (Family Lycaenidæ).

***Liphyra brassolis* Westw.**

(Fig. 9.)

Several individuals of the singular, Dipterous-like larvæ of this species were found at Tulagi, British Solomon Islands, in the leaf and silk nests of *Oecophylla smaragdina* var. *subnitida* Emery. *L. brassolis* is found from Australia to India. It feeds on the larvæ of the host ant. The latter are unable to harm it, because of the heavy corneous larval skin, the edges of which fit closely to the leaf. At the time of pupation the larval skin becomes modified into a cocoon, within which the quiescent stage is passed; a condition analogous to that of the cyclorrhaph Diptera. When the adult emerges it is densely covered with scales which come off if the ants become aggressive and distracts their attention while the *Liphyra* escapes from the nest.

The larvæ much resemble those of *Microdon*, and glide along in a similar manner, though very much faster.

* Dodd (Ent. 35, pp. 153-156, 1906) has given an interesting account of the habits, and Chapman (Ent. 35, pp. 225-228 and 252-255) of the development of specimens from Queensland.