

# ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

AND

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA.

VOL. XIII.

SEPTEMBER, 1902.

No. 7.

### CONTENTS:

Obituary—H. F. Bassett.....	203	Skinner—A New Hesperid.....	213
Bowditch—Notes on Casey's Revision of the American Coccinellidæ.....	205	Editorial .....	216
Smith, E. J.—Lantern Trapping.....	207	Entomological Literature .....	216
McClelland—The Larvæ of Myrmeleon texanus Banks and M. rusticus Hagen.....	209	Notes and News.....	222
		Economic Entomology .....	223
		Doings of Societies.....	230

### OBITUARY.

Homer Franklin Bassett died at his home 120 Cooke Street, Waterbury, Conn., 4.20 A.M., June 28th. He was afflicted with disease of the heart and kidneys.

“Mr. Bassett was the eldest son of Ezra and Keziah Bassett; he was born in Florida, Mass., September 2, 1826. At an early age his parents removed to the Middle West, and he studied at Berea (Ohio) University and at Oberlin College. From 1837 to 1850 he resided at Rockport, Ohio, and from 1850 to 1858 spent his winters teaching in Ohio and Connecticut, returning for the summer months to his farm at Rockport. He taught during the winters of 1851, '52, '53 in Wolcott; in '56 and '57 at Berea, and in '58 and '59 in Waterbury. It was thus that he first became identified with Waterbury and its interests. He spent part of the year 1858 in Kansas, but in the spring of 1859 he opened a private school in Waterbury with quarters on the second floor of the building. He was obliged to discontinue this school eight years after its start, however, because of ill health.

“In 1871 he started an insurance agency in connection with

this branch of the subject. His writings form most valuable contributions, and he described many species new to science. A short time ago his superb collection of Cynipidæ, including the types, was presented to the American Entomological Society of which he was a corresponding member. This collection is to be kept intact under the name of the Bassett collection. His loss will be keenly felt in the entomological world. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

### Notes on Casey's Revision of the American Coccinellidæ.

BY F. C. BOWDITCH.

Mr. Casey's change of our well-known *Megilla maculata* D. G. to *fuscilabris* Muls. seems to be doubtful even on his own showing, as he speaks of them "as in all probability distinct." Such changes should only be made on a certainty. *Megilla strenua* from Brownsville, Tex. = *maculata* D. G.; beyond any reasonable question, his *M. medialis* is probably also a synonym (see also Biolog. VII, p. 151). In *Hippodamia* my specimens, which agree with his descriptions of *puncticollis* and *dispar* and come from the same localities, I call *5-signata* Kby.; several of his other species I fail to identify with certainty, but they seem to be mere variations of established forms.

*Eriopsis connexia* Germ., he states should be stricken from our lists as not occurring in the United States, though Crotch says it does. I have a specimen from Texas.

*Coccinella impressa* Casey and *alutacea* Casey = *5-notata* Kby., or *transversogutta* Fab., whichever of these latter names stands. I fail to separate *perplexa* Muls., *juliana* Muls. and *eugenii* Muls. from our well-known *trifasciata* Linn.; a form of which I have three examples from Colorado and one from Kansas is at present labelled a variety of the last, it has the black part of the thorax continued to the front margin. It is possible this form may tend to *difficilis* Cr.; *C. degener* Casey = *9-notata*. I think the validity of *C. nevadica* Casey is very dubious, as I have a specimen which shows traces of the spots of *9-notata*.

*Cycloneda immaculata* Fabr., *rubripennis* Casey, *limpifer*

Casey, *munda* Say and *polita* Casey. I have many specimens including ones from the exact localities these forms are said to come from, and I confess to a total inability to separate them from *sanguinea* Say (see Biolog. VII, p. 170-71).

*Cleis minor* and *hudsonica* Casey are varieties of *C. picta* Rand.

I find it impossible to separate my series of *Anatis 15-punctata* Oliv. and *mali* Say; the latter is undoubtedly a synonym.

*Neomysia interrupta* Casey seems the same as *horni* Cr.—my specimens indicate that *randalli* Casey is a variety of *pullata* Say.

I am unable to trace the differences of his new species of *Psyllobora*.

In *Exochomus*, p. 109, speaking of the forms *childreni* to *aethiops*, it is said they may be regarded as derivatives of the *marginipennis* type but specifically distinct. I have the three forms *childreni*, *latiusculus* and *fasciatus*; then I have an example from Yuma, California, which has the elytra of *childreni* and the thorax of *fasciatus*, except that in one the anterior black elytral markings are connected with the posterior, bringing up against specimens of *marginipennis* from St. Louis and Florida.

*Chilocorus bivulnerus* Muls. is said to occur as far west as Iowa, and there are three new California species. I have examples from California, Oregon and Colorado, which I cannot call anything but *bivulnerus*, and the specimens which I have marked off as the new species seem to be rather shadowy. *Cacti* Linn. is spoken of as from Honduras, but Texan specimens seem plenty. Gorham in Biolog. VII, p. 175, gives California and Texas as localities.

*Axion pilatei* Muls. is noted as probably distinct from *plagiatum* Lec. because of its red abdomen. I have an example of *pilatei* from Texas which has a red abdomen with a central black cloud. *C. 3-pustulatum* D. G. I have from Missouri, Texas, Wisconsin, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

*Brachyacantha illustris* Casey = *albifrons* Say; *decora* Casey = *erythrocephala* Muls. I have a pair of this species from Orizaba, Mexico, *in cop.*, which has the "confluent pale spots" entirely separate in the ♂ and confluent in the ♀. I do not find any difference between *10-pustulata* Mels. and *testudo* Casey or *socialis* Casey and *dentipes* Fab.

*Hyperaspis pinguis* Casey, I query = *lateralis* Muls. and the same with *laevipennis* Casey; *wickhami* Casey = *centralis* Muls.; *globula* Casey extends into Mexico (Vera Cruz); *6-verrucata* Fabr. occurs from Texas, Colorado, Arizona. It seems strange Mr. Casey should have written so elaborate a paper without seeing examples of *tedata*, *pratensis*, etc. I have sundry specimens which do not fit in anywhere, but without a much larger series should hesitate to call them new. Mr. Casey's treatment of the genus seems incomplete and unsatisfactory.

*Scymnus*—is a wilderness, though I have the benefit of all Mr. Wickham's material, most of which was worked over by Dr. Horn; I am lost in Mr. Casey's windings—*brunnescens* Casey was apparently thought by Horn to be a variety of *terminatus* Say, *subtropicus* Casey = *collaris* Mels., *Texanus* Casey = *fraternus* Lec., *renoicus* Casey and *calaveras* Casey = *lacustris* Lec.

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### Lantern Trapping.

By E. J. SMITH, Natick, Mass.

For the past two seasons I have been using a moth trap, and had such good luck with it that I would like to tell your readers about it. The trap I used was designed by Mr. A. P. Morse of Wellesley College, who kindly lent it to me. It consists of a box of wood having glass on each of its four sides, and a cover with arrangement for outlet of heat and smoke similar to ordinary old style street lanterns. At the bottom are holes for ingress of air. The box is large enough to contain an ordinary kerosene lamp with chimney, and is supported over a wooden box about 18 inches square, which in turn contains a zinc pan about 2 inches deep, and as large as will go in the box. At the base of each pane of glass is a slot the whole width of the glass and about one inch wide which opens directly into the pan below. The pan is filled about half full of water, and then about a pint of kerosene is poured on top. The moth strikes the glass and falls through the slot and is killed by the oil. I have taken hundreds of moths in a single night, and for many weeks in succession. I let it burn until it goes out, putting enough oil in the lamp to last until towards