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DECEMBER, 1927

ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

Vol. XXXVIII

No. 10



JAMES H. B. BLAND,
1833-1911



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PHILADELPHIA, PA.
THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES,
Logan Square

Entered at the Philadelphia, Pa., Post Office as Second Class Matter.
Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage prescribed for in Section 1103,
Act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 15, 1921.

OBITUARY.

As announced in the NEWS for November, GEORGE CHARLES CHAMPION died at Horsell, Woking, Surrey, England, on August 8, 1927. Obituary notices have appeared in the *Entomologists' Monthly Magazine* and *The Entomologist* for September, and in *Nature* for September 17th. The first mentioned is accompanied by a portrait. These three supply biographical information with particular reference to his own country. Champion has, like many others, a special interest for American entomologists by reason of his taxonomic work on Coleoptera and Heteroptera in the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*.

He was born April 29, 1851, son of a Walworth (London) clock- and watch-maker. After having actively studied British Coleoptera, he was engaged by Messrs. Godman and Salvin to make collections for the *Biologia* in Central America, and began his work at San José, the Pacific port of Guatemala, on March 16, 1879. In April, 1881, he proceeded to Panama, where he remained until May, 1883. His itinerary was first published in the NEWS for February, 1907, and subsequently in more detail in the *Introductory Volume* (1915) of the *Biologia*. He contributed an account of his experiences and methods, under the title *Tropical Collecting*, to the *Entomologists' Monthly Magazine* for 1884. Discussing the inserting of dates when certain species of Central American insects were collected, he wrote, in a letter of March 9, 1901, "It is not very important to my mind, for tropical countries"; in this he shared the opinion of Schaus, but not of Gundlach, nor, if I may add, my own.

On his return to England he continued his connection with Messrs. Godman and Salvin and the former records this appreciation of his work in the Preface to the same Introduction.

To my Secretary, Mr. G. C. Champion, I am specially indebted for the valuable assistance he has rendered as collector, contributor, and also as subeditor, in which last capacity his advice has been of inestimable value. His knowledge of Entomology, especially of Coleoptera and Rhynchota, has made him one of our most important contributors, and he has either undertaken alone, or shared in the production of, no less than nine volumes of the 'Biologia'.

These nine volumes were Coleoptera, Vol. III, part 1, Serri-cornia: Elateridae—Dascillidae; Vol. IV, parts 1 and 2, Heteromera; Vol. IV, part 3, in cooperation with D. Sharp, Curculionidae; parts 4, 5 and 7, continuation of the Curculionidae; VI, part 2 with J. S. Baly, Phytophaga (part). Rhynchota Heteroptera, Vol. II: Tingitidae to Corixidae. From the data furnished in the Introductory Volume, it appears that of the Heteromera Champion enumerated 1776 species of which he described 1295 as new; of the Curculionidae treated in parts 4, 5 and 7, he enumerated 2617 species and described 2094 of them as new. For the Cassididae in the Phytophaga the corresponding figures are 227 and 55 and for the volume on Heteroptera 592 and nearly half that number. It will be seen, therefore, that Champion described above 3400 new species in these groups of Coleoptera alone. The dates of publication of his contributions to the *Biologia* fall between 1884 and 1911.

In this connection it is of interest to quote from Champion's letters to the writer:

I have been labeling all the beetles dealt with in B. C. A. by myself. Have just got through about 2500 species of Curculionidae and every specimen now bears a printed name label . . . For some time past I have been sending and receiving co-types of Curc[ulionidae] to U. S. N. Mus. and they are returning the compliment. It is better for both museums. (1. xii. 1910).

The *Biologia* Curculionids worked out by me have just been presented [to the British Museum]—2617 species and about 19,000 specimens. (24. 2. 1911).

After the *Introductory Volume*—the last of the whole series—had appeared, he wrote:

It certainly was a great relief to get that final volume issued, so that the whole work might be closed up. I must say, at Mr. Godman's great age, that the matter was doubtful. However, he lived to see it through and is still fairly well in health. This brings my 36-year work to a close anyway as regards the 'Biologia'. (Nov. 16th, 1915).

The *Biologia* did not conclude Champion's work on Central American Coleoptera, however, for a number of papers by him, on material received after the volumes of that series were

closed, appeared in the *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (1913-1917) and in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (1911-1926).

His holidays were often spent in collecting on the continent and islands of Europe, Switzerland, Norway, Corsica, Sardinia, Spain and Portugal, and also Tunis, being among the countries visited.

His eldest son, H. G. Champion, studied in the United States in 1914 and 1915, and the following letters refer to this visit.

My son, H. G. C., returned to England by the 'Cameronia' and left again, for India, Nov. 13th, by the 'Arabia'. I hope they will not be torpedoed in the Mediterranean (Nov. 16, 1915). . . . H. G. C. reached Bombay safely, thanks, on Dec. 6th. He has brought a great many Coleoptera from California, etc., many things not to be found in collections in this country, I am sure! It will take me a long time to mount them all. Shall hand over a set to B. Mus. probably (11. xii. 1915).

H. G. Champion's collections of Coleoptera in India furnished material for another series of descriptions of new forms by his father in recent volumes of the *Entomologists' Monthly Magazine*. Within the past ten years Champion also published much on African Coleoptera.

Of the *Magazine* G. C. Champion was an Editor from 1891 to the time of his death; to it he is stated to have contributed, before and during his editorship, 426 articles, exclusive of reviews and notices of periodicals. He had also been an editor of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* since 1923.

Active in the Entomological and other scientific societies of London, his modesty prevented his acceptance of the presidency of the first named.

He bequeathed his European and exotic Coleoptera to the British Museum, his British beetles to his eldest son.

As a contributor to the *Biologia*, the writer has again looked over a long series of letters and cards received from Champion in connection with that work. They testify to his scrupulous editorial care, his untiring helpfulness. They recall a personal acquaintance begun in 1895 and renewed at the Oxford Congress of 1912, and they leave behind the pleasant memory of an active and engaging personality. PHILIP P. CALVERT.