

ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

AND

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION,

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA.

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OUR illustration represents the pretty Sphinx moth, *Deilephila lineata*, feeding on *Azalea nudiflora*. The larva also feeds on *Portulaca*, *Pyrus*, *Fuchsia*, etc. The figures are from the unpublished drawings of T. R. Peale, who commenced a work on Lepidoptera in 1833.

In this number we present a list of the members of the oldest entomological society in America. Here will be found the names of many of the most distinguished entomologists the world has known. The history of the American Entomological Society is largely the history of entomology in this country, and it is just as active to-day as it has ever been in the past.

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A Remarkable Sembling Habit of *Coccinella transversoguttata*.

By C. V. PIPER, Pullman, Wash.

The habit of various Coccinellids of sembling in numbers in places where they seek shelter has often been noted, and the fact is a familiar one to most entomologists. In no species have I observed the habit more marked than in the commonest form in this locality, *Coccinella transversoguttata*, and it is no uncommon thing to find, in Winter, a hundred or more under a board or

similarly sheltered. But this habit of sembling when seeking shelter seems to be a totally different thing from the one now to be described.

In July, 1893, while collecting on the summit of Moscow Mountain, Idaho, altitude about 5000 feet, I was astonished to find in the crevices of rock near the summit immense numbers of dead ladybirds of this species. As an illustration of their great numbers I may mention that under a flat piece of rock I picked up one mass of their bodies over a foot square and two inches thick. It contained, from estimates made later, the remains of over ten thousand individuals. A careful search of the vicinity failed to disclose any living ones. None of the plants in the vicinity were infected with scales or aphides, and none of them to my knowledge are ever affected by these insects in sufficient numbers to furnish food for the hosts that had perished there.

In October of the same year Prof. J. M. Aldrich observed, on the same peak, living ones of the same species, and the phenomenon was reported to him as occurring on nearly all the neighboring buttes, one of which, indeed, is called Ladybird Mountain.

Prof. Aldrich states that the beetles were so abundant that he could gather them by the handful, but that he could detect no reason for their sembling.

In July of the present year while collecting in the Blue Mountains, Washington, I found the same ladybird on the barren rocky summit of a peak, 5000 feet high. The insects were crawling over the hot, bare rock, and upon being disturbed would circle about for a few moments and again alight. So great were their numbers that they made quite as much noise as a small swarm of bees. Indeed, I heard them before I saw them, and actually supposed I had disturbed a nest of yellow jackets.

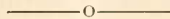
The summit of this particular peak was quite barren and could not possibly furnish food enough for the ladybirds I saw. Furthermore, careful search of the vicinity failed to detect a single aphid, or even traces of aphid work.

That the phenomenon is not confined to mountain peaks appears from the observation of a correspondent in Kittitas County, Washington, who reports a ladybird, in all probability the species under consideration, as gathering in great numbers about a large boulder near his house.

In view of these strange facts the question naturally arises as to the significance of the habit, and thus far no explanation has been proposed that will stand critical examination. A common opinion is that the insects seek the rocks for warmth and shelter. If this is correct why do they seek only the rocks near the summits of peaks and not those lower down? Again, why should they seek shelter on a hot July day? Finally, it would seem that the summit of Moscow Mountain furnishes them not a shelter, but a graveyard. It must also be remembered that search for a shelter does not for a moment explain their swarming in such swarms.

A second theory would explain the phenomenon as the result of air currents carrying the insects up the peak. But if this is true why are not other insects similarly affected? Even granting this it does not explain their remaining there in perfectly calm weather. In this connection I may state that many insects are undoubtedly carried up mountains by currents of air.

On Mt. Rainier I found most excellent collecting on snow-fields and glaciers at altitudes of 7000 to 9000 feet, but it is worthy of remark that Coccinellidæ were decidedly scarce in such situations. Two or three other attempts to explain the significance of the habit seem to me unworthy of mention and the writer humbly confesses that he has no theory to air on the subject. Has anyone else?



COLLECTING SEASON IN SOUTH GEORGIA.

By G. R. PILATE, Tifton, Ga.

A few words in regard to the best collecting season may be of some interest to entomologists. Flowers commence early in the season and there are more or less of them all the year. But about the middle of May the gall-berry bushes come in bloom and last two or three weeks. I do not know the botanical name of this plant. It is an evergreen and grows about four to six feet high, and bears quantities of black berries. It has a very small white flower, but it grows in masses and is very sweet; the bushes generally grow in wet places. Sometimes they cover acres of ground. Insects of all species and families swarm in immense numbers on these flowers. In passing near the plants you are immediately attracted by the loud hum of their wings. Hymenoptera of all

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DR. JOHN HAMILTON.

Dr. John Hamilton, the well-known physician and entomologist, of Allegheny, Pa., died Friday, February 12th, at Pitts' Island, Lake Worth, Fla. He had been in feeble health and went to Florida early in January, where for a time his condition was improved. He died after a short illness. Dr. Hamilton was born in St. Clair, Columbiana County, Ohio, Feb. 17, 1827. He graduated from Duquesne College in 1846 and at Jefferson College, Canonsburgh, Pa., in 1847. He studied theology under the late Prof. James R. Willson, D.D., completing a four years' course in 1851. Later he studied medicine in the office of the late Dr. Dickson, of this city, and in 1856 graduated from the University Medical College, of New York. He first practiced his profession in Greenfield, Mercer County, Pa., where he spent six years, after which he removed to Allegheny, where he practiced his profession until his health failed four years ago. Dr. Hamilton was a cultivated physician and always a diligent student. His early education in theology was continued in Bible study and his religious life was nourished thereby. For many years he was a member of the Allegheny Reformed Presbyterian Church, of which he was a liberal supporter and to the welfare

Notes and News.

ENTOMOLOGICAL GLEANINGS FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE GLOBE.

[The Conductors of ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS solicit, and will thankfully receive items of news, likely to interest its readers, from any source. The author's name will be given in each case for the information of cataloguers and bibliographers.]

To Contributors.—All contributions will be considered and passed upon at our earliest convenience, and as far as may be, will be published according to date of reception. ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS has reached a circulation, both in numbers and circumference, as to make it necessary to put "copy" into the hands of the printer, for each number, three weeks before date of issue. This should be remembered in sending special or important matter for certain issue. Twenty-five "extras" without change in form will be given free when they are wanted, and this should be so stated on the MS. along with the number desired. The receipt of all papers will be acknowledged.—Ed.

ON examining the mass of beetles sent us by Mr. C. V. Piper, which were collected on the summit of Moscow Mountain, Idaho, and sembling habit noted in the March number of the NEWS under the name of *Coccinella transversogutta*, we find them all to be *Hippodamia lecontei*.—ED.

INSECT LIFE IN ARIZONA.—Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Mason, of this city, are entertaining this week two distinguished naturalists, who have made extensive researches in the Western field. The guests are David Bruce, the world's greatest entomologist, and Dr. Richard E. Kunze, a physician of New York city, who has just completed a campaign of five and a half months among the insects of Arizona, and is so greatly charmed with Colorado that he has decided to take up his residence in this State. Dr. Kunze talked in a most entertaining manner last evening of his trip through Arizona, and the peculiarities of insect life in the far Southwest.

"Arizona," said he, in the course of his remarks, "is the El Dorado of the entomologists. The variety of insect life in Arizona has for years made the region a favorite field for students and collectors, but every year new species are found, and new species will be found for years to come."—*Denver News*

IT WAS at the breakfast table and the subject took an entomological turn. "Did you see that advertisement in the *Transcript* about the chair?" asked Mater. "No," said Pater; "what was it?" "Why, there was someone offering a couple of antique chairs, and mentioned, as a special inducement, that one of them contained a borer." "That must have been satirical," said Pater; "No, it was put in in good faith," Mater replied, and rising from the table, found the notice in question and read as follows:—

TWO ANTIQUE CHAIRS

FOR SALE. Heirlooms in vogue in 1776.
One contains wood-borer; gnawing plainly
heard. Address W. M. P., Boston Trans.

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OUR illustration this month represents a well-equipped entomological laboratory. It shows the progress entomology has made from a study looked upon as humbug to one now on a firm basis and its true value recognized by all people of intelligence, if not by the entire community. It will be seen that here are found all the apparatus for scientific work and research. We hope that such a laboratory may be duplicated in every State in the Union. The particular laboratory represented is that of the State Entomologist of New Jersey and Professor of Natural History at Rutgers College at New Brunswick.

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ENTOMOLOGY AT CLEVELAND, OHIO.

By M. BUBNA.

After reading different numbers of ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS, so far issued, I find that the locality at Cleveland, O., has not as yet been mentioned. It is not surprising because this locality has been entomologically dead for a number of years, and since the death of Dr. J. P. Kirtland, who was the leading naturalist in this vicinity. Dr. Kirtland's collection became neglected, and the insects are all destroyed. I have been collecting insects off and on for twenty years and never met with an entomologist here,

Lycæna comyntas common.

pseudargiolus two forms ; common.

Ancyloxypha numitor common.

Pamphila peckius

zabulon

hobomok

Pyrgus tessellata for the first time, last and this year.

Eudamus bathylus common.

tityrus common.

Insects were rather scarce in Summer and Fall of last year.

Mr. C. V. PIPER'S article in March number of ENT. NEWS recalls to my mind a similar experience (see ENT. NEWS, vol. v, pp. 167 and 168). As I am not familiar with the species of Coccinellidæ, I cannot say that the species was *transversoguttata*, but certain it is, that the insects noted in such great numbers on the mountain in Utah and at an elevation of probably 9000 feet were members of the same genus. The impression made upon my mind by what seemed to me so remarkable a flight will not soon be effaced, and I, too, desire to know why the Coccinellidæ were there. A similar flight on the part of *Cantharis nuttallii* would prove that other insects do move in the same manner. In the article above referred to I noted two similar observations concerning this insect. A reasonable inference would seem to be that the insects were in search of food, but were controlled by the wind and sometimes carried to destruction.—ARTHUR J. SNYDER.

THYATIRA RECTANGULATA *Ottolengui* IN CANADA.—In the February number of ENT. NEWS, p. 26, Mr. Ottolengui states that the specimens of *Thyatira* that he has seen from Canada have all been the typical *scripta*. The new species, however, also occurs here. In August, 1896, I took a nice example of *rectangulata* at Little Metis (Rimouski County), Quebec, a village on the south shore of the river St. Lawrence, about 200 miles below Quebec, and I have also taken the species in the neighborhood of Montreal, but in both localities it is rarer than *scripta*. The label "Hudson Bay Territory" on the British Museum specimen is very vague, but if the species occurs along the lower St. Lawrence there is no reason why it should not also be found in some part of the vast district which was formerly known under this name. It is a pity that all descriptions of new species of Lepidoptera could not be accompanied by figures like the excellent one in the February number, and I think it would be interesting to many of the readers of the NEWS to have an article on the cost of such cuts by some one of the leading photo-engravers.*—A. F. WINN, Westmouth, Quebec.

* Half-tone cuts cost 25 cents a square inch.—ED.