

placing them in a vessel containing sea-water they would usually break up into fragments, some of which would afterwards form themselves into revolving little wheels with cilia, which gave me the impression that the particles were starting on a new round of existence as separate individual organisms; and were there facilities at some subsequent time for observing their strange evolutions, I am of the opinion that light might be thrown on modes of reproduction concerning this and perhaps of other allied groups of the Coelenterates. But this fact itself, so far as observed, requires to be mentioned with caution, unless it be a matter which has already, unknown to me, engaged the attention of biologists.

Ornithologists who would like to know more about birds of the Frozen North region visited by Mr. Halkett, are referred to a special article on the subject by the Rev. C. W. G. Eifrig, in *The Auk*, for July last, pp. 233-241, entitled: "Ornithological Results of the Canadian 'Neptune' Expedition to Hudson Bay and Northward, 1903-1904."

STHENOPIS (HEPIALUS) THULE, STRECKER, AT OTTAWA.

By ARTHUR GIBSON, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The discovery of this rare and extremely local moth at Ottawa during the past season is very remarkable. The only known definite locality of this insect, as far as we know, is Montreal, Canada, where the moths in some years are taken not uncommonly. The presence, therefore, of the species at Ottawa is most interesting and worthy of special notice.

On the 6th July, 1905, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. J. W. Baldwin and the writer spent the evening collecting moths around the electric lights close to the entrance to the Experimental Farm. The night was a rather good one for the purpose, and it was a little late when Mr. Baldwin and I started in to the city, for our respective homes. At the southern end of LeBreton Street, where there is an electric light, we stopped for a moment, and, just as we did so, I noticed a large moth fly quickly past and settle on the road a short distance away. A few seconds later it was safe

within my cyanide bottle, and naturally I was rather excited when I saw that it was *Sthenopsis thule*, the first specimen which had ever been taken in the Ottawa district.

The specimen, a female, was in perfect condition, and had evidently only emerged from the pupa a short time previously. In colour it was a beautiful primrose yellow, the reddish brown along the costa and the spots of the same colour on the primaries, being well defined. With the wings expanded it measures $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The time of capture, viz., 11.35 p.m., seems rather unusual. In an article on the occurrence of the species at Montreal,* Mr. H. H. Lyman says :

“The species seems to fly only for about fifteen to twenty minutes in the twilight, as I have never taken it before ten minutes past eight, nor ever after half past eight.”

Since capture, the wings of the above mentioned specimen have lost some of the bright yellow colour ; but this, Mr. Lyman tells us, is peculiar to the species, as, in the cabinet, specimens soon fade and lose their original yellow colour.

The following evening, the 7th July, I again had the good fortune to observe the species. At this time it was along the road at the northern end of Dow's Lake, but a short distance from where the first specimen was seen. About 8.30 p.m. I was walking along this road to the Farm to meet Dr. Fletcher, when I saw a male specimen of *thule* flying rapidly up and down, near a tall cedar tree, in the peculiar oscillating manner of the species. I watched it flying thus for several minutes, when suddenly a female flew along and settled near the end of a twig of the same tree. The male immediately flew around her, and in a very short time copulation took place. I observed them further for some little time, and thought by giving the tree a sudden jar that they would fall and I could capture them. The jarring, of course, disturbed them; but, as it was getting dark, I failed to see whether they fell to the ground or flew away.

Search was made for further specimens on following evenings, by both Dr. Fletcher and the writer, but without results.

*Canadian Entomologist, vol. xxv, Dec. 1893.



Gibson, Arthur. 1905. "Sthenopis (Hepialus) thule, Strecker, at Ottawa." *The Ottawa naturalist* 19(6), 117–118.

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