

THE "SPECIAL SURVEY IN THE VICINITY OF
PORTS OF ENTRY" AS A CONTRIBUTION TO
"A LIST OF THE INSECTS OF NEW YORK"

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A special survey in the vicinity of ports of entry was conducted by the Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, in all the Seaboard, Gulf Coast and Mexican Border States from June 1943 through June 1945. Its purpose was to determine whether, with the increased wartime traffic and its accompanying unavoidable relaxation of plant quarantine vigilance, new foreign agricultural insect pests had been permitted entry and establishment in the port areas.

Determinations of the insects collected in this survey were made by the specialists in the Division of Insect Identification of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and the data in connection with these determinations were written up on the standard record sheets used in the files of the Bureau's Insect Pest Survey. Copies of these record sheets were then sorted out by states and a set of the records for his state were sent to the proper authority in each state covered by the survey.

In connection with the work on a Supplement to "A List of the Insects of New York" (Cornell Univ. Memoir 101, 1928) the writer has been able to examine the "Special Survey" records for New York. This was done through the courtesy of Dr. A. B. Buchholz, Director of the Plant Industry Bureau, New York State Department of Farms and Markets, and Mr. P. M. Eastman, the Assistant Director. An analysis of these records shows that the work done in New York State, resulting from nearly 2000 inspection hours, constitutes a significant contribution to an increased knowledge of the insects which occur in the state. In New York the collections were naturally confined almost entirely to Long Island, Staten Island and the Bronx.

Staten Island and Long Island have for many years been intensively collected by the large and enthusiastic group of entomologists in the New York City area. In view of this the addition by the "Special Survey" of 106 species new to Long Island and of 35 species new to Staten Island shows the need for much more collecting and the value of survey work.

The collections for the "Special Survey" in New York were made by the following members of the Foreign Plant Quarantines Division's inspection staff, listed approximately in the order of the number of records they contributed; C. S. Tuthill (made more collections than any other) A. S. Mills, C. G. Anderson, A. T. Gaul, A. O. Plummer, J. A. Herrick, G. J. Rau, H. L. Smith.

A total of around 1375 collections were made in the vicinity of the Port of New York. As is usual many of the insects collected were determinable only to family or to genus since often only immature forms were obtained. No attempt has been made to count the number of species which could be definitely or tentatively determined specifically. Naturally many of these were already well-known in New York but the previous distribution of some of them within the state was significantly extended by the survey. Valuable food-plant data were also added in many instances.

The number of definitely as well as tentatively determined species new to the New York List or which significantly extend the distribution within the State of species already listed is 253.

Order	Species recorded	Genera new to N. Y.	Spp., new to N. Y.	Spp., new to S. I.	Spp., new to L. I.
Coleoptera	75	2	26	6	32
Diptera	13	4	9
Hemiptera	16	1	5	2	7
Homoptera	79	4	24	17	17
Hymenoptera	12	3	11	1	7
Lepidoptera	54	7	18	8	33
Thysanoptera	4	1	1	1
Totals	253	17	89	35	106

Of these, 89 species, 17 genera and 1 family are not in the New York List of 1928 although several of these had subsequently been recorded as occurring in New York.

The foregoing table gives the number of genera and species in each order which are not recorded in the 1928 New York List as well as those not therein recorded for Long Island and Staten Island.



Leonard, Mortimer Demarest. 1947. "The 'Special Survey in the Vicinity of Ports of Entry' as a Contribution to 'A List of the Insects of New York'" *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 55, 215–217.

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