

A MELANISTIC LOCUST.

BY A. P. MORSE, WELLESLEY, MASS.

In the latter part of July, 1892, I had the good fortune to stumble upon a thriving settlement of that elegant locust *Paroxya atlantica* Scudd. in the near vicinity of Cambridge, namely, on the bank of Charles River at Faneuil station. This find was unexpected from the fact that this species is a southern locust and, I believe, has been previously taken in New England only in the southernmost portions. Several weeks later I took one male in a meadow at Newtonville, at quite a distance from the river. These two localities are the only places in which I have met with this species north of Connecticut, where I have taken it at Niantic in a situation similar to that at Faneuil, and at Stamford in the long sedge of bushy pasture meadows, at an elevation considerably above tide-water.

At Faneuil the first specimen taken, a female, was captured while sweeping over some weeds at the edge of the salt-marsh in search of other Acrididae, and search being made, a number of specimens, mostly males, were secured. These were found to be most plentiful on a species of *Spartina*, or cord-grass, along some of the ditches and tidal runways, and while quite active were not difficult to capture, usually trying to escape observation by sidling around the stout grass-stems in preference to flight, which was resorted to only when alarmed.

Among those secured on this occasion was one male which presented a marked contrast to the others in being deep greenish-black in color, with a peculiar oily lustre which became shining on the smoother portions of the body, particularly on the sides of the pronotum, and the thoracic and abdominal sterna. A fuller description is appended.

At a second visit a few days later three more black males were secured, and also two female nymphs as deeply colored as the adult males. No black adult females were taken, though several secured at this time and at a third visit were extremely dark in coloring.

The dark, heavy-bodied females, which seemed to prefer remaining on or near the rubbish of dead stalks and weeds covering the ground, were not noticeable objects; but the more active, black males were quite conspicuous against the green background of the higher zone of growing vegetation which they frequented.

Paroxya atlantica Scudd. Melanistic male. Description of fresh specimen, taken at Faneuil, Mass., July 22, 1892.

Head, thorax and abdomen deep greenish black. Tegmina translucent, brownish fuscous, with brownish- to greenish-black veins and venules. Wings transparent greenish, the veins and venules dark except in posterior third of anal field, darkest in anterior and axillary fields.

Eyes greenish-black with brownish reflections. Antennae greenish-black, the articulations pale.

Abdomen with the overlapping caudal and pleural margins of each segment paler greenish-black, these paler markings enlarged anteriorly on sterna 6, 7, and 8, to form very obtusely triangular pale spots. A large circular pale spot on sternum 9 reaching the caudal margin. The elevated cephalic margin of sternum 10 pale in median portion.

Fossal membranes deep brown. Femora 1 and 2 deep sage green, lightest on proximal

thirds of caudal faces. Posterior femora black at tips, passing into dark brownish-green on the external face, and olive-green on the internal face and in tibial groove; dusky herring-bone markings on both faces; a dusky spot on the proximal end of the upper groove and another with oblique edges one-third the distance toward tip.

Tibiae deep greenish-black; the posterior shining black at proximal end with a narrow sage-green annulus beyond, widest inside. Spines black. Tarsi deep greenish-black above, paler beneath, especially on the callosities and pulvilli.

A NEW AMERICAN LACINIUS.

BY NATHAN BANKS, SEA CLIFF, N. Y.

Lacinius is a genus of Phalangiidae. It was erected in 1876 by Thorell for *P. horridus* Panz. (Sopra alcuni Opilioni d'Europa e dell'Asia occidentale, Ann. mus. civ. st. nat. Genova, vol. viii, 1876). Simon (Arachnides de France tome vii, 1879) united it to Acantholophus Koch, I think, on good grounds. But as Acantholophus is preoccupied, I believe, by MacLeay in Coleoptera, it may be best to use Lacinius; especially so since Simon considers *P. horridus* Panz. as the type of Acantholophus. Lacinius is closely related to certain species of Oligolophus by the spinous eye-tubercle and anterior margin of cephalothorax; also by having prominent spines on the femora of the palpi. It differs in having the eye-tubercle more remote from the anterior margin of the cephalothorax. I believe the American forms can be farther separated from Oligolophus in not having false articulations in the metatarsi. The legs

are shorter than in Oligolophus. Two species of Oligolophus have been described from U. S., *O. pictus* Wood and *O. ohioensis* Weed. The latter I should place in Lacinius; it resembles the European *L. spinosus* Bosc. (*obtusidentatus* Koch); while the species which I describe below has more resemblance to the typical species of the genus *L. horridus* Panz.

Lacinius, Oligolophus, Mitopus and Phalangium form a tribe of the Phalanginae, distinguished by having a prominently spinous eye-tubercle and a group of spines on the anterior margin of the cephalothorax. This tribe may be called Oligolophini. It may be divided into two groups, according to the presence (Lacinius, Oligolophus) or absence (Mitopus, Phalangium) of prominent spines on the femora of the palpi.

Phalangium longipalpis Weed would according to some European



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