

## REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

*To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club :—*

In entomological work we have to record some increase of activity. Sub-excursions were held weekly throughout the season, at which at least one of the leaders was always present. While valuable and extensive collections and records were made in nearly all of the orders of insects, the Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera received special attention. A few facts are given regarding the collections in each order.

**HYMENOPTERA.**—It was announced last year in the report of the branch that a number of species new to Canadian lists had been already collected at Ottawa, and that Abbé Provancher had determined some of the captures to be species new to science. He has since published in "Le Naturaliste Canadien" descriptions of many new species contained in the division Terebrantia, which includes saw-flies, ichneumons, gall-forming, flies, etc. In this extensive division the Ottawa collections have already yielded nearly 100 new species, besides many species not hitherto recorded from Canada, and some of great rarity.

The collections made during the past summer have as yet been only partially classified, but it is found that many species not formerly observed have been captured.

*Oryssus Sayi*, Westw. was found upon old maple trees near Hull, both emerging from, and ovipositing in, the dead trunk. The life history of these generally rare insects was, we think, not before definitely known. *Xiphydria albicornis* was again common in the city, where it oviposits in our maples, especially attacking the trees which have been newly set out along the streets. *Selandria rosæ*, the rose saw-fly or slug, was unusually abundant. At the recent excursion to Buckingham it was seen in large numbers, and on roses beyond Hull it was very destructive. In the city it did much damage. *Emphytus maculatus*, the strawberry-sawfly, also appeared to be more common than usual. *Messa hyalina* was bred in large numbers from the galls which cover and disfigure the leaves of the willows which have been planted by some of our citizens.

**LEPIDOPTERA.**—The season was decidedly a bad one for butterflies and moths. Bright, hot days were few, and when they did occur there



was generally too much wind for large collections to be made. On 22nd May an expedition was made to the locality for *Thecla Nippon* at Chelsea, and several specimens were secured. On the same day the spring broods of *Argynnis Bellona* and *A. Myrina* were observed, as well as the winter form *Hiemalis* of *Pieris Oleracea*. Good specimens of *Lycaena Lucia* and *L. Violacea* were also collected.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made to find *Fenesica Tarquinius* in the locality where Mr. Hanham found it abundantly in 1879.

On 1st July a sub-excursion of the branch visited the Mer Bleue where *Chrysopharus Epixanthe* and *C. Thoe* were collected in numbers, and the first specimen of *Grapta Interrogationis* was recorded for this locality. This species was subsequently bred in its two forms *Fabricii* and *Umbrosa* from larvæ collected on *Ulmus Americana*. The *Theclas*, usually so abundant upon the flowers of *Rhus Typhina* and *Asclepias Cornuti* in the first part of July, were conspicuous by their absence. This scarcity was also a noticeable fact concerning the common Clouded-Sulphur butterfly *Colias Philodice*. Not half a dozen specimens of the spring brood were seen, and it was very scarce in the autumn also. The only insect which was at all abundant was *Danaïs Archippus*.

A few interesting captures of moths have to be recorded. *Harrisimemna trisignata*, parent of the remarkable Zigzag Caterpillar, was taken at light, and *Platycerura furcilla*, a rare moth the larva of which feeds upon *Pinus Strobilus*, was bred from larvæ taken last summer at Hull, P.Q. This locality still ranks amongst the highest as a rich collecting ground. Here *Ægeria exitiosa*, the peach borer, was observed by Mr. Harrington for the first time in this locality. The raspberry root borer, *Ægeria rubi*, was too abundant in many gardens at Ottawa. Some fine specimens were bred from garden raspberries, the canes of which were in many quarters badly injured. Cutworms were not so abundant as usual. *Hadena devastatrix*, however, was most frequently complained of, and did a considerable amount of damage. Another interesting species of this genus, *H. mactata*, was bred by Mr. Harrington from the flowers of *Cypripedium spectabile* which it had attacked severely in Dow's Swamp.

The item of most interest, however, which was observed during the past year was the increase and extension of the colony of the maple



—leaf—cutter, *Incurvaria acerifoliella*, which was mentioned in last year's report. This colony is in Beechwood near the cemetery and now covers more than double the space it did last year. Maple trees for a space of about 10 acres were during last autumn entirely defoliated by the minute case-bearing caterpillars of this moth. The perfect insect was taken at the excursion to Buckingham on 3rd June.

DIPTERA.—The season appeared to be very unfavourable for flies, and collections were correspondingly small. Mr. T. B. Caulfield, of Montreal, has determined for us a number of species, and we have yet many to be identified, before it would be advisable to publish a list. Endeavours will be made during the present year to enlarge our knowledge of this order. Mention may be made of the breeding of *Psila rosæ*, a small fly of which the grub bores in carrots, and which frequently does much injury to these roots. It has not been recorded previously from Canada.

COLEOPTERA.—The collections in this order include some additions to our lists. At the Buckingham Excursion a fine specimen of *Anthophilax malachiticus* was taken upon a birch tree in the grove near the river. At Meech's Lake specimens of a species of *Microrhopala* were taken on raspberry bushes. The species has not yet been finally determined, but this is the first instance of finding members of the genus in this locality. A number of other interesting additions was made to our local list.

ORTHOPTERA.—Our members have hitherto somewhat neglected this order, which includes some of our common injurious insects. Mr. Caulfield, of Montreal, who is at present working in this order, has named a few species which were referred to him, and expresses his willingness and desire to examine any specimens which our members may wish to refer to him.

HEMIPTERA.—Collections in this order were small, but these contain two species not hitherto recorded in Canada. Abbé Provancher is now publishing in his magazine an account of the Canadian species and he has determined many of our specimens, and has still some in his possession for that purpose. So far, over 100 species are known to occur here.



NEUROPTERA AND PSEUDONEUROPTERA.—The work of collecting in these orders was vigorously kept up during the whole collecting season by several members of the Club with gratifying results. Many beautiful specimens of known species of both orders were taken. The insects belonging to Pseudoneuroptera were more largely represented, especially of the families Odonata, or Dragonflies, and Ephemerina, both of which were unusually abundant during the past summer. The full extent of the work accomplished will not be definitely known until a few of the rarer and more difficult species have been worked up. It is quite evident, however, that valuable additions have been made to the Canadian lists and that some of the insects now in hand will have to be described for the first time. Much greater difficulty is experienced in working up these insects than is the case with those of several other orders of Entomology, owing to the want of monographic descriptions, while the fragile nature of some of the specimens renders it very difficult to transmit them by mail.

W. H. HARRINGTON.

JAMES FLETCHER.

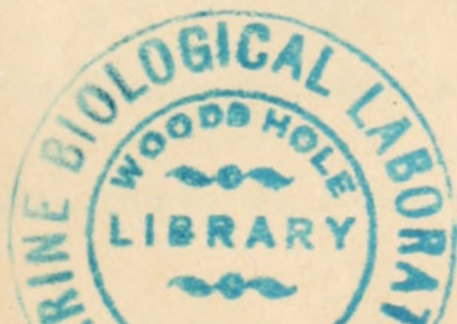
T. J. MACLAUGHLIN.

February 10th, 1887.

Leaders.

TRANSACTIONS.—If any member, or correspondent has failed to receive any part of the Club's publications which should properly have been sent to him, a memorandum should be sent to the Librarian—Mr. T. J. MacLaughlin (Public Works Department)—notifying him of its non-arrival.

NEW MEMBERS.—1. A. P. Low; 2. D. E. Smith; 3. R. H. Cowley; 4. R. G. Code; 5. Arthur G. Forward; 6. Wm. Scott; 7. F. A. Gordon; 8. W. T. Lawless (Hull); 9. B. T. A. Bell; 10. John D. Evans (Trenton); 11. Thos. Gilmour; 12. J. T. Bowerman; 13. Robt. Gansby (Guelph); 14. James Clark (Renfrew).





Harrington, W H, Fletcher, James, and McLaughlin, T. J. 1887. "Report of the Entomological Branch." *The Ottawa naturalist* 1(2), 22–25.

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