

REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1905.

Read March 27, 1906.

The Leaders of the Entomological Branch have pleasure in reporting that during the season of 1905, the entomologists of the Club have been actively engaged; much good collecting having been done and many new facts discovered concerning the life-histories of various species of insects. The season on the whole was an unproductive one in the Ottawa district, the cool nights and damp weather being very discouraging and hindering much in the plans for excursions, etc., which had been made by the Leaders. Notwithstanding the disappointing season, by dint of persistent effort good work was done by some of the members of the Club and many new records of insects were added to the local lists.

The fortnightly meetings held in the early part of the year were very helpful to the members who attended them, and much useful information was brought out in the discussions following the reading of papers. These meetings of course are open to any members of the Club and as they are very informal in nature, all wishing to take up the study of insects are welcome to attend and could quickly gather much useful and interesting information.

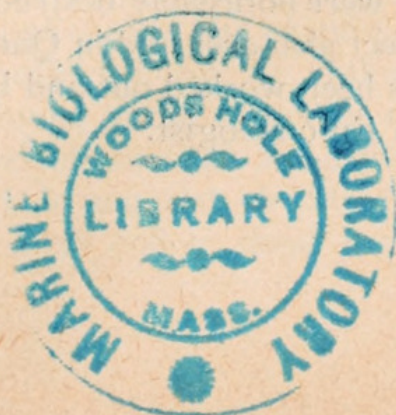
No reports of the Entomological Branch have been published in the OTTAWA NATURALIST since that for 1902 which appeared in the September number for 1903, but full accounts of the meetings of the branch have appeared from time to time and furnished the same information as would have been given in a report. A few new members have joined this Branch of the Club but the field is so large and so much of it is yet to be worked that the Leaders sincerely hope that more students will join them during the next season.

Valuable work has been done for the science of entomology by some of our members who have visited or who are living in localities distant from Ottawa. The Rev. G. W. Taylor, of Wellington, British Columbia, has taken up the study of North American Geometridae and has already added largely to our knowledge of those interesting moths. Mr. Jos. Keele and Mr. J. Wilson, both of the Geological Survey staff, have brought back from the far north small but valuable collections of different or-

ders of insects. Mr. Keele explored the Valley of the Mayo River, Yukon Territory, in 1904 and worked along Lansing River, Hell River and Ladue River in the same Territory in 1905, Mr. Wilson was exploring on the Hudson River slope in 1904, and in the Temagami district in 1905. As both of these gentlemen took great care to label their specimens accurately, even the small number they brought back, have distinct and great scientific value. Mr. Andrew Halkett, who was naturalist on the Neptune expedition under Commander Low, in 1903-4, brought back a surprisingly large number of species of insects from the Hudson Bay region. Mr. H. H. Lyman, of Montreal, who joined the Labrador expedition, sent out to observe the total eclipse of the sun, found opportunity to collect specimens and make observations. Mr. Norman Criddle and Mr. T. N. Willing, two of our Northwestern members, have prosecuted their studies of insects and plants most vigorously and with very important results. Many new species have rewarded their efforts and a vast amount of useful knowledge has been accumulated during the past few years.

Of our local members perhaps Mr. C. H. Young's work among the micro-lepidoptera is most worthy of mention. The exquisite manner in which Mr. Young prepares his material is well known to us all but the value of his work is chiefly due to his skill in rearing large series of insects so as to compare the limits of variation. Mr. W. D. Kearfott, of Montclair, N. J., has been indefatigable and most generous in helping our members with the identification of their captures of these minute and most beautiful moths. Mr. W. Metcalfe has taken up the study of the order Hemiptera and is gradually compiling a complete list of the Ottawa species. His material has been named by the leading specialists and we hope that it will soon be ready for publication.

Our two highly esteemed corresponding members, Messrs. J. B. Smith, State Entomologist, of New Jersey, and Prof. H. F. Wickham, of the University of Iowa, as in the past, have rendered invaluable service to our members by helping with identifications and sending us for the Library their useful publications.



Among many rare and interesting insects which have been taken mention may be made of the following:—

LEPIDOPTERA:

Papilio machaon, L. var. *aliaska*, Scud, an exceedingly rare insect, was taken in the Yukon Territory by Mr. Keele, and on the Nagagami River on the Hudson Bay slope, by Mr. Wilson.

Papilio brevicauda, Saunders. The larva was found at the North-west River post of the Hudson Bay Company, on Lake Melville, Ungava, by Mr. Lyman.

Pontia protodice, B. & L. The second specimen taken at Ottawa, Sept. 27 (Gibson.)

Eurymus boothii, Curtis. Three specimens of this remarkably rare Coliad were taken in the Yukon Territory by Mr. Keele in the beginning of July.

Erora laeta, Edw. Two specimens of this beautiful little Thecla, Meach Lake, Que., May 18 (Young).

Amblyscirtes samoset, Scud. Chelsea, Que., May 28. (Gibson & Campbell).

Pamphila palæmon, Pallas (*mandan*, Edw.) Eastman's Springs, July 1 (Fletcher).

Anthomaster leonardus, Harr. Britannia, Aug. 23. (Baldwin). This skipper is very rare at Ottawa and has not been taken for 25 years.

Utetheisa bella, L. Sept. 25 (Fletcher), the second specimen taken at Ottawa.

Phragmatobia assimilans, Wlk. var. *franconica*, Sloss. Meach Lake, May 16 & 17 (Young); Ottawa, June 3 (Gibson).

Apantesis celia, Saunders. Ottawa, pupa, May 9th, moth June 7 (Baldwin).

Semiophora elimata, Gn. Meach Lake, May 8 (Young).

Semiophora opacifrons, Grt. Meach Lake, Aug. 7 (Young.)

Barathra occidentata, Grt. This rare moth has not appeared for many years at Ottawa but during the summer of 1905 the moths were abundant during the latter half of June and the larvæ were noticeably destructive in gardens during late summer. The insect also occurred in Quebec and Nova Scotia. The life history has been worked out and is published in the Report of the Dominion Entomologist.

Polychrysia formosa, Grt. Meach Lake, Aug. 15 (Young), a very beautiful and rare species.

Autographa rubidus, Ottol. Meach Lake, June 5. (Young).

Melipotis fasciolaris, Hbn. Mr. Baldwin took a fine specimen of this West Indian moth in his garden on July 6 last. This is the first Canadian record and it is probable that the insect was brought north in a bunch of bananas.

Stenopis thule, Strk. One of the most important captures of the year was made on July 6 by Mr. Gibson when he secured a perfect specimen of this striking and very local moth near the Experimental Farm. Up to the present time there is no known authentic record of it having been taken at any other place than Montreal.

COLEOPTERA

A few specially interesting captures of beetles have been made at Ottawa during the past season.

Pityobius anguinus, Lec. Six specimens of this fine elater were taken at electric light at the end of June (Gibson and Baldwin), and a female was secured a month later floating in a water barrel, (Fletcher).

Aphorista vittata, Fab. Aylmer, April, (Gibson).

Odontæus cornigerus, Melsh. Ottawa (A. E. Richard).

Pachyta rugipennis, Newm. Hull, Que. About 40 specimens of this very rare longicorn beetle were taken by Mr. W. Metcalfe pairing at the base of a dead pine tree May 29, 1904.

Anthaxia æneogaster, Lap. This little Buprestid beetle, which is frequently found in the flowers of Trilliums in Spring, was observed to be ovipositing on the trunk of the same dead pine tree, and at the same time as Mr. Metcalfe collected *Pachyta rugipennis*.

Phytonomus punctatus, Fab. The Clover Leaf Weevil, which has occasionally done considerable harm to clover fields to the south, was detected at Ottawa for the first time in 1905 when two specimens were caught at the Experimental Farm.

An important work has been accomplished in the examination of the whole of Mr. Harrington's Dytiscidae, by Mr. John D. Sherman, Jr., of New York, who has found in the collection some very interesting species. The members of the Club are urged to make use of this opportunity to get their material identified and also to make a special effort this year to collect these insects.

The following are species of more than usual interest which have been found at Ottawa, and are among those which have not yet been recorded from the district:—

Desmopachria convexa, Aube, *Bidessus lacustris*, Say, *Coelambus turbidus* Lec., *Deronectes depressus* Fab., *Hydroporus pulcher*, Lec., *H. solitarius*, Sharp, *Ilybius pleuriticus*, Lec., *Agabus semipunctatus*, Vichy, *A. reticulatus*, Vichy, *Rhantus sinuatus*, Lec., *Hydaticus stagnalis*, Fab., *H. piceus*, Lec., *Dytiscus hybridus*, Aube, *D. marginalis*, Linn, and *Acilius semisulcatus*, Aube.

The publication of a complete list of the Ottawa Dytiscidæ, is most desirable, as that published in Transactions No. V, page 73, is obsolete and several of the determinations were erroneous.

JAMES FLETCHER,
W. H. HARRINGTON,
C. H. YOUNG,
ARTHUR GIBSON,

LEADERS.

SUB-EXCURSIONS.

Saturday, June 9th.—Seven naturalists took their way to Billings' Bridge on Saturday afternoon. The party being small, they did not separate into different groups, as is customary on these "excursions."

The tempting shade of a beautiful "glen" seemed more inviting than a prolonged walk in the burning sun, to our usual haunt, "Rideau Park." So after a short consultation, we entered "Fairy Realm," and saw the wood-anemone, in all its grace and beauty, dotting the bank, side by side with the lovely fleabane. Nature is always charming with her variety, and contrast of colors.

In some places the ground was carpeted with moonseed, (*Menispermum Canadense*). It was too early in the season to get the flowers of this pretty vine, although the bud was now forming. It had coiled itself around every unsightly object, such as, old roots, dead branches, etc., "and wreathed them with verdure, no longer their own." After climbing up a rocky way which must have been a foaming torrent, the night before, we found ourselves, a group in the centre of a magnificent picture



Fletcher, James et al. 1906. "Report of the Entomological Branch, 1907." *The Ottawa naturalist* 20(4), 82–86.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/18017>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/368957>

Holding Institution

MBLWHOI Library

Sponsored by

MBLWHOI Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.