

sponges but they were based upon imperfect specimens. The first specimens examined consisted merely of the stems with the sponge scraped off, and were supposed to be the skeletons of the parasitic polyps (*Palythoa*). Later it was supposed that the stalk grew upward from the sponge. As more perfect specimens were obtained, and closely allied species were obtained in other seas, the true method of growth was determined. I have no time to refer to authorities, but will quote from the brief account of Prof. Hyatt in the *Standard Natural History* :

“The sponge itself is * * * of a light brown colour, and friable when dry. The top is usually occupied with a number of cloacal apertures surrounding a central prominence which is in reality the end of the stem. The stem is spun by the tissues, as a supporting column, of elongated spicules bound together and growing in a spiral as the animal progresses upwards. The lower end of the stem becomes frayed out, and sinks into the mud as the animal grows, but constant additions to the upper end compensate for this and form a column which sometimes reaches a foot in length.

W. HAGUE HARRINGTON.

O.tawa, Jan. 15, 1892.

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REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR 1891.

(*Read March 12th, 1891.*)

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

GENTLEMEN.—The leaders are pleased to announce an increased interest in this branch. Several of the younger members have collected regularly throughout the season, and have been remarkably successful in obtaining rare and valuable species.

In this connection special mention may be made of Mr. Willibert Simpson, Mr. Reginald Bradley and Masters Tommy and Beverley McLaughlin. The joint collection made by the last named took the prize at the Central Canada Exhibition. With reference to this association and the prizes that have been offered at the annual exhibitions, the leaders trust that greater efforts will be made to exhibit larger

collections and thus keep up the interest of the public in this important branch of study.

A large part of the collections of Messrs. C. P. Bate, W. Simpson, and R. Bradley was made at Kingsmere in the Chelsea mountains. Amongst the beetles collected were some not previously recorded as having been taken in this locality, e.g., *Myas cyanescens*, 2 specimens Mr. Bradley, *Encyclops cœruleus* and *Xylotrechus sagittarius* Mr. Bate. Mr. Simpson took a fine female of *Pityobius anguinus*, another specimen, a male, was taken by Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Harrington bred a female from a larva found in a decaying log in Beechwood in May, showing that this insect, one of the finest and largest of our Elaters is not so rare here as previously supposed. *Saperda calcarata* the large poplar borer was found in injurious numbers by Messrs. Simpson and Bradley at Kingsmere. They have now a barrellful of intested poplar stems containing many of the larvæ.

The leaders regret exceedingly the loss this branch has sustained, by the return of Rev. G. W. Taylor to British Columbia. Before leaving he had made a critical study of the *Carabidæ* with good results; many of the doubtful species in this difficult order were satisfactorily determined and several additions were made to the Ottawa list, particularly in the genus *Bembidium*. In the early spring diligent search was made for the members of this order and large series of specimens were taken. Amongst those not before recorded were *Cychrus Brevoortii*, *Lachnocrepis parallelus*, *Nebria pallipes*, and *Loricera cœrulescens*.

Two interesting occurrences of exotic insects imported with fruits were brought to the notice of the leaders by Mr. C. P. Bate. *Blaps mortisaga*, a California beetle, he had found alive walking across a floor in the city. This, from what we could learn, had probably been introduced in a case of dried fruit. A small scorpion was also found by Mr. M. McVeity in a consignment of pineapples from the West Indies. In taking them out of a barrel he was stung on the hand. The weather was cool and the scorpion was sluggish or he would probably have suffered more severely than he did from the sting. As it was, the wound was extremely painful for several hours.

Some attention has been given to the local Hemiptera, and Mr. Harrington gave an afternoon lecture on this order and submitted a

preliminary list, which will appear in a future number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST. The large families of Aphididæ and Coccidæ, which embrace a large proportion of the species of this order, have not so far been much studied and must for the present be omitted. The study of some families of the Hymenoptera has been so far advanced that the leaders hope soon to begin the publication of the list of this order which was promised in a previous report; but the printing of which has been postponed, owing to the great number of new species constantly turning up and the difficulties attending their accurate determination.

Mr. McLaughlin has collected several new species of dragon-flies, but they are not yet identified.

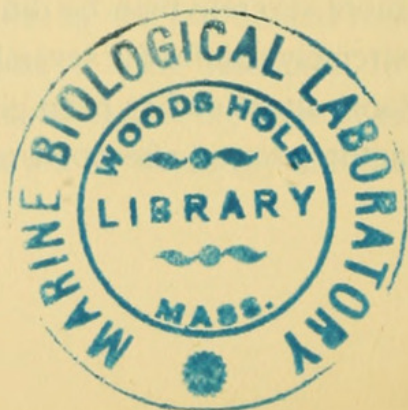
In the order Lepidoptera several rare species have been collected. A few specimens of *Nisoniades Horatius*, not previously recorded from this locality, were taken at Beechwood by Mr. Fletcher, ovipositing on *Aquilegia Canadensis*.

A small but interesting collection of moths was taken at the dynamo house of the Electric Light Co. This contained two specimens of *Hepialus argenteomaculatus*, *Sphinx Kalmiæ*, *Smerinthus modestus*, *S. geminatus*, *S. excæcatus* and *Tolyte velleda*. Two of the large sphinx caterpillars, *Philampelus Achemon* and *Sphinx Chersis*, were injuriously abundant on the Experimental Farm, the former on grape vines and the latter on ashes.

A serious attack on the wheat crop by a small fly (*Oscinis variabilis*) has to be recorded. It is being specially studied by Mr. Fletcher.

T. McLAUGHLIN,	} <i>Leaders.</i>
JAMES FLETCHER,	
W. H. HARRINGTON,	

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McLaughlin, T. J., Fletcher, James, and Harrington, W H. 1892. "Report of the Entomolgal Branch for 1891." *The Ottawa naturalist* 5(10), 192–194.

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