

Collecting at the Water Gap.

By ANNIE TRUMBULL SLOSSON, New York City.

When, a few years ago, I deserted the happy hunting-grounds of the White Mountains and selected the Delaware Water Gap for a summer resort, I had faint hope of entomological success. The place was so near New York and Philadelphia, had been so hunted over for years, how could I expect to make any discoveries, capture new or even rare species? But as I look back over my records I am not at all ill pleased with the net results. The locality is almost ideal from the viewpoint of a naturalist. Well wooded, well watered, a rolling country with surrounding hills and real mountains to look up to or climb, it is a tempting spot for botanist, entomologist or general zoologist. Its insect fauna is rather peculiar, including both northern and southern species beside those commonly found in the Middle States, so-called. I have found there several insects which I had before taken only on Mt. Washington, and again some species which I have heretofore called southern and taken only in Florida have turned up at the Gap.

As some of you know, I no longer like "roughing it" when on a collecting trip. I stay at a comfortable hotel where, between my tramps, I can rest and eat under most favorable conditions. At the Gap my night collecting would be styled by strenuous entomologists almost criminally luxurious. A large private bathroom opened from my bedroom; its floor was tiled, its woodwork and walls pure white. It had one window and bright electric light. Before I went down to dinner in the evening the window was always opened to its fullest extent, the lights turned on and the door closed. Then, when I returned later at night, I found my "catch." Walls, ceiling and white bathtub were covered with specimens; certain families of Neuropteroid insects, Perlidae, Rhyacophilidae, Hydropsychidae and others were abundant. Among these Mr. Banks found several new to science and has since described such. In my latest number of Transactions of the Am. Ent. Soc. two of these are described by Mr. Banks, *Rhyacophila formosa*

—the specific name a fitting one for the exquisite little creature with its jet black wings spotted with white and yellow, and antennae ringed with black—and *Wormaldia plutonis*, a dark plutonic fellow in deep mourning.

The big *Corydalis cornuta* is common and has been brought to me dozens of times by bellboys and night watchmen, though let alone severely by the hotel guests of both sexes. A large *Chauliodes*, *pectinicornis* I think, flies occasionally into the house at night. I have found good species of Lepidoptera in that room, too. The first and thus far the only specimen I have captured of *Polygrammate hebraicum* Hub. was sitting on the white wall, where his green and black wings showed to the best advantage, one evening when I first looked at my trap. Coleoptera come there also, especially longicorns from the oaks near my windows. *Elaphidion villosum* is rather common and I have taken *unicolor* and *cinerascens* there, too.

Employees and guests show a kindly interest in my researches. As I came in from a walk one day I saw a young man whom I knew but slightly, sitting upon the stairs in a constrained position, head bent backward and eyes directed towards the top wall near the ceiling. As I spoke to him he answered in a greatly relieved tone that he had sat there over an hour, keeping his eye on "that bug up there" for me. The "bug" proved to be a good specimen of the handsome beetle *Eburia 4-geminata* Say., and the hearing of this sonorous name and trying to commit it to memory seemed an adequate reward to the patient watcher.

In the same bathtub of which I have spoken I found, this last summer, a fine specimen of the longicorn *Stromatium pubescens* Hald. It is a rare species in this part of the world, and one of our best-known coleopterists here (a shy man, so I will not name him) tells me he suspects it is but a wanderer from some other region and but of chance occurrence.

I take many rare, some new, species of Hemiptera at the Water Gap. Two specimens of a new capsid, one of each sex, were taken on different nights at the bottom of the bathtub, which was fortunately dry just then. It is a *Phytocoris* and has the manuscript name of *pruinus* Heid.

I have two or three new namesakes among my Gap captures, but modesty forbids my enlarging upon these. One wet chilly day I started for a walk; but my net was soon useless, being soaking wet, and insects were scarce. I decided to give it up and return home. As I passed a low dwarfed sycamore I caught sight of an odd-looking lump on a leaf and knocked it into my damp net. It was a large Membracid new to me, and I sent it to Mr. Van Duzee. The very next day I received a letter from him telling me that this was a long lost species of Walker's, which he had never before seen, and that it settled a doubtful point for him as to the identity of another species described by himself. I was, of course, filled with joy and pride over my rare unique. But, a day or two after, a note from Mr. Van Duzee told me that, after hearing from me that the insect in question was found on sycamore, he had searched such trees and—found two specimens of the bug, right in the suburbs of Buffalo! He secured but one of the two, the other escaping from the net. I tried hard to sympathize with the loser, but fear I felt selfishly resigned to the thought that he now had no more than I had—just one. But a little later my second specimen was secured and now I earnestly hope that at least one more Buffalo bug of this sort will fall into the net of my good friend, the Hemipterist.

I was going to tell you of some other interesting captures made in this same locality, Odonata, Diptera and Orthoptera, but that story must wait till another time. However, I can assure you that I heartily agree with the ambitious bellboy, fresh from the country academy, who, after looking at a box of my insect treasures, exclaimed, "The Water Gap must be a very insectivorous place."

New West Indian Gall Midges (Dipt.).

By E. P. FELT, Albany, New York.

The following descriptions of new species are based upon material received during the past year from St. Vincent, W. I. The most interesting form is *Bruggmanniella pisoniae*, remarkable because of its presenting a combination of characters found



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