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NOTES OF 1885 ON SOME INJURIOUS AND OTHER COMMON INSECTS.

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The past season was remarkable, in our locality, for the general scarcity of diurnal Lepidoptera, and also of many of the Coleoptera, especially among the Scarabeidæ, Cerambycidæ and Buprestidæ. Many species of these, usually plentiful, seemed rare this year, and even *Lachnosterna fusca* was not nearly so abundant or injurious as it is generally. Perhaps, with the exception of *Colias philodice*, the most common butterfly was *D. archippus*, which I have never seen so common. I do not think I saw a single specimen of *P. cardui*, although it was very abundant last year. *Pieris rapæ* was less numerous and appears to be decreasing in numbers every year, largely owing, no doubt, to the attacks of the parasite *Pteromalus puparum*. The birds also, especially the Fly-catchers, do not get full credit for the good work they do. Insects of all other orders seemed to be about as abundant as usual, and several species proved to be more than usually numerous and destructive.

The Buffalo Tree-hopper (*Ceresa bubalus* Say) was again very abundant, doing very much injury to apple and pear trees in young orchards. On July 5th I found some larch trees (*Larix Americana*) with the foliage very much destroyed by Saw-fly larvæ, and on examining the trees in the woods and surrounding country, I found that they were all attacked. At this time most of the larvæ seemed to be a little more than half grown, and they continued to feed until about July 15th, when some of them made cocoons. Many of the trees were now entirely defoliated, and the branches and twigs literally covered with the larvæ, many of which were dropping to the ground, and with the falling "frass" made a sound like that of fast falling rain drops. Three days later (July 18) very few of the larvæ were to be found, most of them having formed cocoons among the old

leaves and debris, or in the loose surface soil at the base of the trees or in the vicinity. When collecting some of these cocoons on July 19th, I found that very large numbers had already been collected and the larvæ taken out by some small animals, probably mice and moles, as there was a perfect network of small burrows under the old leaves and grass. The empty cocoons were collected into little heaps, and a very large handful could often be gathered at a single grasp.

Having been kept in a moderately warm room, some of the imagines emerged from the cocoons on December 22nd, and continued to do so almost daily until January 17th of this year. The larvæ, cocoons and imagines agreed exactly with the figures of *Nematus Erichsonii* (Hortig), in Prof. Riley's report to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1883.

I had noticed these larvæ on the larch trees in former years, but they were not so generally abundant, and I had not the opportunity to study them.

My father has told me that about thirty years ago the tamarack woods were entirely defoliated, and looked as though scorched by fire, and he thinks that the saw-fly larvæ were probably the cause. It was more noticeable at that time, as there were large tracts of land covered with tamarack forest that have now entirely disappeared.

Another insect has proved to be peculiarly injurious this season to young growing beans. It is a small dipterous fly, and specimens sent to Prof. Riley were determined by him as *Anthomyia angustifrons*, Mirgen (= *A. colopteni*, Riley), the larvæ of which have been hitherto known to feed upon the eggs of *Caloptenus*. During the past summer the larvæ attacked a field of golden wax beans that were planted about June 15th, and on that part of the field that was most seriously injured, at least nine-tenths of the crop was destroyed. About ten days after planting, as very few of the beans had grown to the surface of the ground, an examination was made for the cause, and it was found that nearly every bean was infected by from 1 or 2 to 20 or 25 small, long, white maggots. Some of the beans attacked had hardly sprouted, while most of them had grown from one to two inches, but being planted deeply, they had scarcely reached the surface. Both the stems and seed-leaves were attacked. These larvæ were first noticed on June 25th; by the 28th many of them had pupated, and hardly a maggot could be found after July 2nd. The flies emerged

about July 10th. If this bean-feeding habit of the insect should become general, it might prove very annoying.

Grasshoppers of several species were very abundant and injurious, hundreds of bushels of grain having been destroyed by them, while pasture and grasses were much injured, and many young fruit trees were defoliated. Some farmers reported in early September that their buckwheat had been so devoured by grasshoppers that only the stumps of the stalks remained.

Cicada canicularis Harr. was not so common this season as it has been some years.

Females of the fall canker-worm moth (*Anisopteryx pometaria*) were taken depositing eggs on apple trees, Nov. 21-24. This insect is not common in our part of the country, and is not noticeably injurious.

Larvae of the pear-tree slug (*Selandria cerasi*) were found as late as Oct. 30th, or later. They are not abundant and give us no trouble.

The fall web-worm, *Hyphantria textor*, has become more abundant and troublesome during the past three or four years. Young larvae were first noticed July 10th, and new lots continued to hatch until about the middle of August.

A fresh specimen of the cotton moth (*Aletia xyliana* Say) was taken Sept. 19th.

On July 12th, a large number of small parasitic flies emerged from a dead cut-worm (Noctuidae). These parasites are evidently the *Copidosoma truncatellum* Dalman, which is so well figured by Prof. Riley in his Report to the U. S. Dept. of Agr. for 1883.

Early in December I took a living specimen of *Cyrtophorus verrucosus* Oliv. in the wood of wild red cherry (*P. pennsylvanica* Linn.), and also found a large number of larvæ which I think were of the same species, as they occupied similar cavities to that of the beetle. The larvae of a Lepidopterous insect (probably *Ægeria*) was found under the bark of the same tree.

On Dec. 8th, a living pupa of *Tremex columba* was taken from the heart of a green beech log, the log being over ten inches in diameter. At the same time larvae of *Saperda calcarata* were taken from the heart of *Populus tremuloides*.



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