

NOTES ON HYDROMETRA MARTINI, KIRK. (=LINEATA, SAY).

BY J. R. DE LA TORRE BUENO, NEW YORK.

Genus HYDROMETRA, Latreille et auct. (=Limnobates, Burmeister et auctt.) H. Martini, Kirkaldy, 1900 (=lineata, Say, 1832.)

The peculiar facility of the older entomologists, the fathers of the Science, for discarding each other's generic and specific names has in this instance, as in many others, given rise to a complicated synonymy, of which I give above that covering this extremely interesting little water-strider. It is given more in detail in The Entomologist (London, Eng.) for June, 1900, on page 176, in which Kirkaldy elucidates it, relegating Say's specific name to synonymy, as it unfortunately has been preoccupied by Eschscholtz, who in 1822 described *Hydrometra lineata* from Manila, Philippine Islands. In the paper mentioned hereafter, Mr. J. O. Martin discusses the generic synonymy.

In March, 1900, pp. 70-76, THE CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST published "A Study of *Hydrometra lineata*," by the last named author, a most interesting paper on the habits and peculiarities of this Hemipteron. The notes I now present are largely supplementary and confirmatory of his work, although I may say that my labours were not directed to that end. In May of 1903, Mr. W. T. Davis took me to Staten Island, where, in a marshy pond, we found *Hydrometra Martini* by the hundred. We took them until we got tired. Again in May of this year, we took very many more at the same place. Subsequently, I have found them here and there, in ones and twos, or in greater numbers, without any effort, which bears out Mr. Martin's experience, although I have nowhere found them as abundant as at Staten Island. This little bug prefers to hug the shore, hiding among the grass-stems growing out of the water. One's shadow falling on it seems to disturb them, and they emerge from their hiding places, and these seemingly tiny twigs can be seen moving briskly away, borne on their hair-like legs, with which they *run* on the surface, or else they remain motionless, letting some friendly little breeze waft them away. It is to be noticed that *Hydrometra walks* on the surface of the water and does not propel itself by a rowing motion, as do the *Gerridae* and other Water-striders. Its tarsi also are provided with claws terminal and not set above the tip of the last tarsal joint as in the latter family. The winged form of *Hydrometra Martini* must be very rare in the north, as out of about two or three hundred individuals I have seen, I have found only two fully winged males.

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