

# REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 1891.

(Read February 25th, 1892).

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

GENTLEMEN,—The leaders appointed in the section of Entomology have to report that they were not able to devote to their allotted duties, as much time as in former years. The prolongation of the session of Parliament during the collecting season, absence from the city, and other causes made it impossible for them to do as much work as they looked forward to accomplishing.

During the early part of the season very good collections of Hymenoptera were made, including about seventy-five kinds of Sawflies, of which two or three are undescribed species. An interesting outbreak of an imported sawfly was that of *Fenusa varipes*, St. Farg. (= *melanopoda*, Cam.) upon European alders at the Experimental Farm. This insect has become a serious pest and produces two broods during the season; the larvæ mining between the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves, and giving the foliage a very blotched and unsightly appearance. The imported Larch Sawfly (*Nematus Erichsonii*, Hartig.) still commits serious injury to the tamaracs (*Larix Americana*), in the neighbourhood, and the trees over many acres of swamp have already been killed.

A very interesting lot of small Hemiptera, chiefly homoptera, was also collected, which is now in the hands of Mr. Van Duzee for determination, and he writes that the lot contains some choice species. This district seems to yield a large variety of hemiptera, and the list of species already known is quite extensive, although no member has given them the special attention which they deserve.

The collections in Coleoptera were inconsiderable, and added little to our knowledge of this order, although many of the families still require special attention, and a systematic search should be made for species which in all probability occur here, but which have so far been overlooked.

In Lepidoptera the season was particularly unproductive, although as usual a few rare species rewarded the persistent collector. An