

his death. Mr. Ashmead, however, has been able to enlarge the list of Canadian species to about ninety. With the exception of three forms from Vancouver Island, the species are all from a few localities in eastern Ontario and Quebec, so that the Dominion as a whole has been practically unworked. The three western species are *Mesitius vancouverensis* and *Polymecus vancouverensis*, collected by the Rev. G. W. Taylor, of Victoria (and communicated through the writer to Mr. Ashmead), and *Anteon puncticeps*, taken by Mr. Wickham.

Although the Proctotrypids are all small, and frequently microscopic, they show great variations in structure, and their study thus becomes very interesting. A large proportion of them are egg-parasites, while others prey upon Aphididae, Cecidomyidae, etc. In many species (noticeably in the sub-family Bethylinae) the females differ largely from the males in the shape of the head, antennae and structure generally. Those of the sub-family Dryininae have remarkable chelate, or pincer-like claws, on the anterior feet, which are probably for more firmly grasping, during oviposition, the small, active homopterous insects on which the larvae are parasitic. Many forms are wingless or have very rudimentary wings, but they are, nevertheless, very nimble little atoms, and can leap many times their own length.

As the appearance of Mr. Ashmead's splendid monograph may stimulate some of our members to the collection and study of these insects, it may be stated that a considerable number of the species, such as *Baeus*, etc., may be obtained even in winter by sifting moss as it is done for small coleoptera. This habit of hibernating in the moss of swampy localities is another feature (not mentioned by the author) which separates them from the other hymenoptera known to me, with the exception, perhaps, of ants, which are also occasionally obtained in sifting.

W. H. H.

THE BUTTERFLY HUNTERS IN THE CARIBBEES: By Dr. Eugene Murray-Aaron. New York; Charles Scribners' Sons, 1894; pp 269.

It is a novel event in literature to have a boys' book of adventure written by an entomologist; we were, therefore, prepared to peruse with interest the volume which Dr. Murray-Aaron has just published. Belonging, perhaps, to those whom he characterizes as the "younger old people," we were charmed beyond measure with the book and read it through from beginning to end with as much avidity and enjoyment as any adventure-loving school-boy. It relates, in pleasant easy style, the expedition made by a couple of boys under the guidance of their naturalist friend "the doctor." During the early winter months they visited several of the islands of the Bahamas, and then made a more venturesome excursion across Haiti and into Santo Domingo, winding up with a flying visit to Jamaica. Their object was to collect butterflies especially, and at the same time to gather all the animal and vegetable curiosities that they conveniently could. For an account of their success and the various "dodges" they had recourse to, especially when in pursuit of *Papilio Homerus*, we must refer the reader to the book itself. It is not, however, a mere record of the doings of collectors; a great deal of interesting information is given regarding the condition of the negro races in their barbarism where left to themselves, and their happy condition when under British rule. Much pleasant instruction may also be gained regarding the geography, scenery and government of the various islands that were visited. If any paterfamilias is looking for a book to put in his boy's Christmas stocking, he cannot do better than purchase a copy of this; if his boy has any taste for natural history it will delight him beyond measure. The book is handsomely printed and bound, and illustrated with several well-executed plates. The entomologist may be disappointed at the absence of lists or names of species and pictures of butterflies, but the book is not meant for a scientific treatise, though its statements may be relied upon as strictly accurate, the author being well-known as the editor for a time of *Papilio*, and Curator of the American Entomological Society at Philadelphia, as well as a valued contributor to the *Canadian Entomologist*.

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