

## LAMPYRIDS AND APHIDS.

BY ERIC MONTIZAMBERT, PORT HOPE, ONT.

The great value of the Lampyridæ as destroyers of various insect nuisances in their larval stages is too well known to need comment, but I doubt if many persons are aware that at least one species of this sub-order has a particular relish for a certain aphid.

On June 8th, 1906, I was attracted by swarms of insects to a clump of Golden rod (*Solidago Canadensis*); on drawing nearer I discovered that the insects were Lampyrids of a common species (*Telephorus carolinus*). Hundreds were swarming over the plant, and this fact caused me to look more closely. Upon doing so I discovered that they were greedily devouring the big red aphids which were very common on *Solidago* about here. The beetle would seize the aphid from the rear with his mandibles and front feet, and in a few seconds would leave him sucked dry. The number of aphids destroyed in this manner was enormous. When I visited the plant the next day I saw nothing but hundreds of dried-up aphid skins; no beetles were visible. The aphid was *Siphonophora rudbeckiae*.

A week later I noticed the same occurrence at a place eleven miles distant. The insects were identified for me by Dr. Fletcher, of Ottawa.

## STHENOPIS THULE.

To the Editor of the "Canadian Entomologist":

SIR,—I cannot allow the note of censure appended by you to my paper on "Collecting *Sthenopsis Thule*," in the December number, to pass unchallenged, as I feel that it is undeserved.

The former supposed great rarity of this moth was due to our ignorance of the food-plant, and, therefore, of the proper localities in which to look for it. As to its supposed restriction of range, it is inconceivable that a moth which feeds upon so common and generally distributed a tree as the willow, and which produces such an enormous number of eggs, could really be restricted to a very limited locality. Mr. Lyman found a specimen in the British Museum which had been received from Mr. Barnston, and was supposed to have been taken, along with other specimens, at St. Martin's Falls, on the Albany river. If it was really taken there, it shows a very wide distribution to the north, but even if that specimen was taken at Montreal, as has been privately suggested, there is still the statement of Dr. Strecker that he had received a drawing of one taken in Wisconsin, which would show a wide distribution to the west.

That it has not been taken to the south may indicate a northern range, and I believe that it will be found in a northerly and north-westerly direction, if looked for in its season where willow scrub abounds. It should also be remembered that as its season is so short, it probably mates immediately, and oviposits very early.

It should also be remembered, as Dr. Knaggs points out in his "Guide," that a moth which flies in the dusk of the evening will also, under favourable circumstances, fly in the dusk of the dawn, when it will be free from molestation by even the most greedy collector.

200 Mitcheson St., Montreal, Dec. 24th, 1907.

EDWARD DENNY.

Mailed January 8th, 1908.