

hundred and sixty species (eight are already prepared), besides two or three plates with details of neurulation, etc.

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Vice-President of the Société Entomologique de France.

Paris, France, June 4, 1884.

INSECTS SWARMING ABOUT IULUS.

*Dear Sir*:—The following observation may have a bearing on the facts communicated by Mr. J. A. Lintner to a late number of your paper. (See Can. Entom., April 1884, v. 16, p. 80.) Several years ago I found a large living *Iulus* surrounded by a swarm of minute Diptera, apparently similar to the species that often breeds abundantly in stale lemonade and similar mixtures. Whether the Diptera I observed were really *Drosophilidæ* or not I cannot say, because I did not examine them carefully. I saved specimens of the flies, but they have been lost. At the time that I saw them I supposed that they were attracted to the *Iulus* by the odorous fluid secreted by its lateral glands—a fluid that is quite acid—and I afterwards thought that it would be an interesting experiment to expose a specimen of *Iulus*, after irritating it thoroughly to cause it to pour out some of its secretion, in a cage out of doors, to see if these flies would not be attracted by its acid fluid. The *Iulus* which I saw in the midst of these flies did not appear disturbed by them, although they darted up and down about him, often lighting in numbers upon his back.

GEORGE DIMMOCK, Cambridge, Mass.

*Dear Sir*: While walking along the New Jersey shore of the Delaware River, near the village of Delanes, last July, I was startled by hearing some small bodies falling through the foliage of an oak tree, and as they struck the leaves it sounded as if it were raining, but as the sky was perfectly clear, my curiosity was aroused. I turned around to see what the noise was, and saw some black larvæ falling to the ground, and further investigations showed that quite a number of these larvæ had fallen to the ground from the tree, and here and there I saw several Tachina flies, I believe a species of *Exorista*, hovering around the larvae trying to deposit their eggs. From this I suppose that these Tachina flies had flown to the tree in search of victims, and most probably the larvae had dropped from the tree to escape their enemies. Perhaps many larvae take this method of trying to escape from their Hymenopterous and Dipterous parasites?

EUGENE L. KEEN, Philadelphia, Pa.