

THE BLATTIDÆ OF ONTARIO.

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The Blattidæ, or cockroaches, are represented in Ontario by eleven species, only two of which, however, are natives, the others being, with two or perhaps three exceptions, merely accidental visitors from the south.

Ischnoptera pensylvanica (De Geer).—Generally distributed throughout Ontario as far north as the Temagami District, and locally common or even abundant. I have specimens from the following localities: Point Pelee; Toronto; De Grassi Point, Lake Simcoe; Stony Lake, Peterborough Co.; Lake Joseph, Muskoka District; Go Home Bay, Georgian Bay; Temagami Park.

This cockroach is very abundant on the rocky, sparsely-wooded country about Go Home Bay, where it occurs in rotten logs and under loose bark. It readily takes up its abode in the summer cottages, where it becomes as much at home in the kitchen and larder as its cosmopolitan relatives of the city, and is often regarded by the residents as a nuisance. I came across it also in considerable numbers on a rocky island in Stony Lake, Peterborough Co., while on a canoe trip. They were first seen at night running up and down a tree trunk in some numbers. Our provision bags became infested with them, and remained so during the rest of the trip.

More annoying still is their habit of eating the paste from book-bindings and nibbling the surfaces of the covers. On my first visit to the Georgian Bay Biological Station, being unacquainted with this habit, I left a water-colour drawing, which I had just made, upon a book-shelf in the laboratory. Next morning only a ghost of it was to be seen, so thoroughly had the cockroaches nibbled off the pigments from the surface of the paper.

The adults appear about the middle of June, remaining until some time in August. They are most abundant during July. The species hibernates in the nymph state. Full-grown nymphs are found in the latter part of May.

Ischnoptera borealis Rehn.—An adult male of this species, labelled