

roaches are sure to be found. The large leaves of this plant form a receptacle for water, and it is not an uncommon occurrence to find mosquitoes, both larvæ and adults, in such situations.

Among the commonest insects on Antigua are cotton-stainers (*Dysdercus* spp.) of which two or three forms occur on the island. Adults were found in copula in late June and early July at which times also nymphs in all stages of development were taken, particularly along the edges of cultivated fields and on low grasses in open places near woods. By preference these bugs feed on the bolls, seeds, leaves and tender shoots of the cotton plants, but when cotton is lacking they will feed upon other related plants. In addition to lessening the vitality of the plant by extracting the juices, cotton-stainers have been found to transmit a fungous disease which has become serious in some of the islands of the West Indies. Indeed, these pests are responsible, in large measure, for the almost complete abandonment of the cotton-growing industry in Antigua. The name stainer arises from the fact that the cotton lint is discoloured by the excrement of the insects and by the fungous disease which gains entrance through the punctures as well as by the crushing of the insects themselves in the gins.

Other kinds of Hemiptera, both Homoptera and Heteroptera, were taken in great numbers from the grasses and bushes in the cultivated and partly cleared areas all over the island. In fact, the hemipterous fauna exceeded that of any other group of insects, both in variety and abundance. One of the principal families of Heteroptera represented is the Pentatomidæ, of which more than fifteen species were taken. Of these, *Solubea pugnax*, *Piezodorus guildinii* and *Euschistus crenator* are perhaps most generally abundant. In favourable localities *Mormidea vosilon* is often abundant on Solanaceæ. Open fields in the central flats yielded great numbers of *Thyanta antiguensis*, and on the low grass within the crumbling walls of Fort Barclay the peculiar *Mecidea longula* was extremely abundant. A colony of the beautiful steel blue and red *Vulsirea nigrorubra* was found on a small tree along a trail leading through the woods.

The cleared spaces in and near the woods offer good collecting grounds for butterflies. On ascending Monks Hill from the south side by one of the numerous trails great numbers of gaily coloured Hesperids, Nymphalids and Lycaenids are to be found in the neighbourhood of the little truck patches.

In the low cultivated fields along the hills great numbers of larvæ and adults of the boll-worm (*Heliothis* sp.) and the cutworm (*Prodenia* spp.) were found, and some injury was being done to various plants, including corn and sweet potatoes. In such places also the familiar *Chrysopa* larvæ and adults are very common. Small Chrysomelids are not uncommon, *Homophæta aequinoctialis* and *Chaetocnema* sp. being among them.

Very often moths of different kinds were attracted by the lights in our quarters at night, the most notable of these being several forms of *Protoparce* and a specimen or two of the interesting noctuid, the black witch (*Erebus odora*).

With such a variety of habitats and faunas represented, collecting was indeed a pleasure, and many localities still remained to be investigated at the expiration of our allotted time upon this interesting tropical island. Although one often associates large, striking or bizarre forms of insect life with tropical countries, particularly with tropical islands, such forms are, with few exceptions, lacking on both Barbados and Antigua.