FIRST RECORD OF AMARANTHUS SPINOSUS L. IN CANADA:

Amaranthus spinosus L., the Thorny Amaranth, was sent from Swansea, Ontario, August 23rd, 1912, to the Central Experimental Farm. Ottawa, for identification. As far as we are able to judge from the literature at hand and enquiries made, we are of the opinion that this is the first record of this weed in Canada. It is hardly a desirable immigrant, as it has caused considerable annoyance to agriculturists beyond our southern border.

Like the other species of Amaranth, or Pigweed, it is a coarse annual plant producing a large number of seeds. It differs from them in having a pair of stout spines in the axil of each leaf. These spines are from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, and no doubt would be extremely irritating to horses working in a field infested with this weed. A typical plant measured three feet in height with a root ten inches long and one inch in diameter, red in colour, graduating to white at the tip. The plant is very bushy in general appearance; the particular specimen in question had six branches from the base of the stem varying in diameter from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. The flowers are monoecious, the staminate being arranged in long and slender spikes and the pistillate in clusters in the axils of the leaves.—F. FYLES.

BEE WITH POLLINIA ATTACHED TO ITS FEET.

In the collection of insects in the Division of Entomology at the Central Experimental Farm, is a specimen of *Epeolus mercator*, a solitary bee, with the pollinia of a species of *Asclepia*, probably *A. syriaca*, attached to its feet. Each appendage consists of a small hard implement with two arms which grips the claws of the bee like a clip, and attached to this clip by ligature strands are the two pollinia which are in the form of translucent, yellow, horny, shining leaflets about one millimetre in length.

The flower of the Asclepia produces an abundance of easily accessible honey, and is consequently visited by many insects, but it is smooth and slippery and offers no convenient place for the insect to alight upon, so that the only way it can support its weight is by inserting its claws in the slits between the anthers where the clip-like bodies are situated. Endeavouring to obtain a firm hold the insect inserts its claws in the slit in the clip, and then when it withdraws its foot the clip comes with it and also the two pollinia of the adjacent stamens which

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