

other third of the remaining Orders; two of the latter were Lepidopterous, one a Geometer, and the other he thought belonged to Zygaenidae.

Mr. Bethune mentioned that he had found the larvæ of the Colorado Potato Beetle eating the leaves of the common Milk-weed, *Asclepias*.

Mr. Barnard had also seen one of these larvæ feeding on Milk-weed, but in this instance the larva was lighter in colour than usual. Mr. Lintner remarked that it was unfortunate that the Potato Beetle would feed in the larval state on quite a number of different plants, and in the absence of vegetable food would sometimes feed on one another.

Mr. Saunders had observed this carnivorous propensity of the Potato Beetle larvæ on several occasions, and had seen the same among the Cut-worms, and in one or two instances among larvæ of the Lycaenidae. Mr. Scudder had also observed similar habits. Prof. Comstock had noticed it especially in the Cotton-ball worm *Heliothis armigera*.

Mr. Lintner invited Prof. Comstock to give some details in reference to the present plans and operations connected with his department at Washington. Prof. Comstock stated that he was endeavouring to work up a biological collection of insects on such a scale and in such a manner as shall be a credit to the Government. He has a large number of breeding cages, and an assistant who devotes his whole time to the rearing and mounting of insects. Special attention has been paid this year to insects feeding on clover, and the collection now contains over fifty species known to be destructive to this valuable crop. Prof. Comstock asked the aid of all Entomologists and assured them that any insects sent him would be well taken care of.

Mr. Scudder urged that Entomologists should recognize the fact that it is of the utmost importance that a collection as complete as possible should be formed in Washington, and that it should assume a national character.

Mr. Barnard asked for some information as to the method of arrangement adopted in the collection referred to. Prof. Comstock stated that he arranged the insects in their usual order and place; with the insect, its usual food plant, and where it feeds on several or many plants, a memorandum is placed with such specimen containing a list of the plants; by this method much duplication is avoided.

Prof. Fernald was asked to give some explanations regarding his work on the Tortricidae. He began the study of this group two years ago, commencing with those species found in Maine, but soon found that he could do nothing satisfactorily without taking in all those found throughout the United States and Canada. He has also found it necessary to study the European forms, and is now engaged in examining all these structurally, with the view, if possible, of improving their classification, and earnestly desires help from collectors in all parts of the country, especially in reference to the larvæ of the different species. He thinks that the character of the head, thoracic shield and anal plate will probably be of most value in separating the species.

Mr. Saunders reported that *Papilio cressphontes* had been found rather common both in the larval and perfect state in several parts of Ontario this season. Dr. Morris said that he had found *Papilio ajax* particularly local in its distribution, abounding in some localities, but very scarce in others.

Mr. Lintner stated that *Pholisora catullus* had not been found about Albany until three years ago, when a single specimen was taken; this year it is one of the commonest species in and about the city; its food plant is *Monarda punctata*.

Rev. C. J. S. Bethune referred to the great abundance of *Papilio philenor* ¹one season, many years ago in the neighborhood of Hamilton, Ontario; since then he was not aware that it had ever been found common in any part of Ontario.

A question was asked by Mr. Grote as to whether any of the species of *Cucullia* ever come to sugar. In reply, Dr. Bailey stated that he had captured three species of *Cucullia* and ten species of *Plusia* at sugar. Recently, when sugaring in a certain locality, he was surprised to find a large number of Noctuids on decomposing animal matter, especially some partially decomposed deer hides.

Mr. Grote reported having taken *Audela acronyctoides*; one male was captured this month at light. He thought that this was the first time it had been taken in New York State.