

REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH,

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club :

The Leaders have much pleasure in presenting the following brief report on the work of the year 1896-97.

COLEOPTERA.—The species belonging to this order are now so well represented in our collections that many additions cannot be expected, except as the result of very careful and special collecting in such families as the Dytiscidæ and Hydrophilidæ, which are chiefly aquatic forms, or the Staphylinidæ, many of which live in, or upon, decaying vegetable matter or fungi. A few additions to our list are, however, annually made, even in the groups which have been more fully worked up, and occasionally some very rare species is accidentally obtained. From time to time our territory is reached by insects, either American or foreign, which have gradually spread from more distant points. Some of these species multiply very rapidly, and thus may, in a few years after the first individuals are noticed, become quite abundant. Such has been the case with *Aphodius prodromus* Brahm., mentioned in previous reports, and which is now everywhere met with. Another instance is *Sphæridium scarabæoides* Linn., first found at Casselman in May 1895, and which Mr. Simpson last summer found to be abundant at King's Mere. It is somewhat curious that, though so plentiful there, careful search in the more immediate vicinity of the city has failed to produce specimens. A pretty little steel-blue weevil was last summer observed for the first time, viz., *Cetorhynchus cyanipennis* Germ. This species appears to have been first noticed in America about ten years ago (Entomologica Americana Vol. V., p. 57.) but it must now be somewhat widely distributed as a specimen taken at Toronto was received for examination. In Ottawa it has occurred upon garden-cress. A rare beetle picked up on the railway track near Casselman is *Hylecætus lugubris*