

tibiæ are unarmed. The antennæ have from six to twenty-eight segments. Members of this group have a characteristic appearance, which, once recognized, enables one to easily separate most of the species from allied forms. The adults are usually yellowish or reddish, though some of the species are dark brown or even black.

Representatives of this family may be found at almost all seasons of the year, and in nearly every conceivable place. Some breed in decaying wood or under bark, others subsist upon low plant forms, such as fungi and lichens, some upon decaying vegetable matter, while a number of our better known species produce the familiar vegetable deformities so frequently associated with this family. Gathering the galls at the time when the insects are nearly ready to transform, often results in obtaining excellent specimens, though special collecting from various food-plants has proved far more prolific in species, but this latter method does not permit the definite association of the insect with its food-plant. Certain species appear to be closely limited to one plant, while others are capable of subsisting upon a variety. Some forms require an entire year to complete the life cycle, and others may produce several generations in a season. Field collecting is most successful in sheltered spots, or when there is comparatively little wind, and is apt to be more productive a day or two after a rain. We have found a window in an open shed a very satisfactory collecting place, provided it was kept free from cobwebs, and have succeeded in taking 10 species therefrom in as many minutes.

We have undertaken a serious study of this interesting group, and it is desired to enlist the co-operation of all interested in the advancement of science, as we wish to secure specimens from different sections of the country, in order that our studies may more adequately represent the American fauna. Adults may be taken in a close net, and from this transferred to a cyanide bottle, in the bottom of which there is a loose wad of absorbent cotton so that the insects will not shake around; they should then be put into either pill boxes containing absorbent cotton or placed in small vials with 50 per cent. alcohol. The latter should be filled with fluid, or, better still, a small amount of cotton may be inserted so that the insects can not float about, and in this way lose the terminal segments of the appendages.

E. P. FELT, State Entomologist, Albany, N. Y.

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