

Entomological Notes

To the Editor.

SIR,—On referring to my Journal for the year 1870 I find my Entomological Notes neither copious nor particularly interesting. However, such as they are I venture to submit them for your inspection, and for insertion, should you deem their insertion desirable, in the pages of your periodical.

1870.

April 7.—I captured a *Parnassian J. album*, tortoise-shell butterfly.

May 4.—Mosquitoes made their first and most unwelcome appearance in our village. They were much less abundant than usual, during the entire season; in fact, I never remember seeing and feeling, so few in the course of my seven years' residence in North Douro.

May 16.—Another pest, the black-fly, *Simulium mol-stum*, first presented itself to our senses of sight and touch; indeed, I may add, of hearing too, for when they dance around your head as you are trying to enjoy the evening air in your garden, they buzz in the most irritating manner, like a swarm of miniature bees. In two respects they are not quite so great a plague as are the preceding *Diptera*; they let you rest, even without the intervention of mosquito curtains, at night, and they but rarely molest you in the house. These wretched insects, like the last, were of rarer occurrence, and lasted for a briefer space than during previous years. They left us on the 18th of June.

29.—*Papilio turnus*, Tiger Swallow-tail Butterfly.

30.—*Polyphemus*, Emperor moth.

31.—*Papilio asterias*, Black Swallow-tail Butterfly. This beautiful butterfly was more than ordinarily abundant.

June 3.—Flea-beetle: *Heila striolata*, Illig. These destructive *Coleoptera* were excessively plentiful. My hot beds in the spring were swarming with them, and my cabbage plants were many of them, after they were planted out and had attained a considerable size, totally destroyed by them. I tried various suggested remedies, such as soap, hellebore, Chinese powder, and tobacco water, but nothing proved efficacious. The last named was the least unsatisfactory; it acted as a narcotic, and after its affusion I picked off numbers of the fleas: but then—the labour! “*Egrescit medico!*”

4.—A Longicorn beetle, the ribbed Rhagium: *Rhagium lineatum*, Riv.

6.—Tawney-spotted Buprestis: *Buprestis pulcherrima*, Harris.

7.—On the evening I first noticed that charming Lampyris beetle, commonly called the fire-fly.

15.—*Saperda tridentata*, 5½ tenths of an inch in length.

18.—*Cataclysta annu'alis*, Walker. In swarms on the outer walls of my house and all over my garden.

Saperda vestita, Say.

July 2.—I noticed several larvae of the *P. asterias* on my parsnips and parsley.

11.—Camberwell Beauty butterfly, *Panassa antiope*.

August 22.—As I was indulging in the lazy luxury of a picnic, an enjoyment for which our beautiful river and chain of lakes afford so many facilities, a friend, who had been fishing with a rod and line, brought me, in a basin of water, a tiny snake which had twisted itself round his line. It was a *Gordius aquaticus*, the first specimen I had seen of this hair-snake in an unknotted condition. It swam about like any eel, only with more elaborate contortions, owing to its disproportionate length as compared with its girth.

September 2.—Copper butterfly, *Lycena americana*.

8 Walking-stick insect, *Spectrum femoratum*. This insect is, as I believe, of uncommon occurrence in our neighbourhood. In the course of fifteen years I have seen but three specimens, including the present one. It measures as follows: Length of the body, 2 and six-tenths inches; length of the antenna, 2 and one-tenth inches, total length, 4 and seven-tenths inches. The colour of the body is brown, resembling exactly that of a dried twig; that of the legs, brown and green.

October 28.—*Papilio asterias* and *Panassa interrogationis*, Semicolon butterfly, emerged from their pupa state in my boxes.

And finally,

November 29, and December 13.—I was bitten, while sitting reading in my study, by unseasonable mosquitoes. To prove that these *diptera* were not only “alive” but “kicking,” I permitted the second of the two to insert its proboscis into my hand, and to retain it there until its body became bloated and crimson with my blood, just as it would have appeared in the Fall. I may add that between 8 and 9 o'clock a.m. on both days the thermometer stood at 36°.

VINCENT CLEMENTI

North Douro, Feb. 11, 1871.

ANOTHER METHOD OF KILLING THE CURCULIO.—Put some hay into warm brine, and soak it well, then spread it out and let it become nearly dry, so as to burn slowly; attach a wire basket to a pole, and press the hay firmly into the basket, and pour common tar over the hay. On a still evening, cloudy if possible, when the fruit blossoms commence falling, set fire to the hay at the sides of the basket, and hold it up under the tree so as to let the smoke pass all through it; if there be a flame, pour on more tar, so as to produce a dense smoke. Repeat this often. After the smoke penetrates well some of the curculios fall dead, and if the smoke be very heavy, it kills them all.—*The Gardener's Monthly*

Apiary.

Bee-keepers should look to their Bees

The snow having disappeared early, bees were generally taken out of winter quarters during the warm weather in March, since which time there has been little to gather except pollen or bee bread; yet there have been many days, even most of the time, that bees would fly out and search for honey. The consequence is many stocks will be greatly depopulated, while others will have consumed all their stores, and will require feeding, or perish.

If a stock become greatly reduced in numbers it may often be of great advantage to exchange places with a strong stock, and in this way get the weak hive increased in numbers. Queenless stocks, if there are any, should be added to those hives which have but few bees.

Several parties have informed me that their bees have died since they were set out, and with plenty of honey and bees. I am led to think that it is the result of some disease, as some bee-keepers have lost a number of stocks without any apparent cause. I hope that where bee-keepers have met with the misfortune to lose their bees in this way, they will report it through the CANADA FARMER, stating all particulars, that we may be able to ascertain the cause of their dying.

J. H. THOMAS.

Queenless Stocks.

Almost daily some one writes to me, “I have a queenless stock; what shall I do with it? Can you furnish me a queen, and at what price?” For the information of such persons as may have queenless stocks I will say, “It is impossible for me to furnish queens early in spring. A moment's thought and it will be seen that it is impossible to breed queens until about swarming time—until drones make their appearance. Hence I could not furnish queens early in spring unless I had wintered them over for that purpose. This may, and in some cases has been done, but the trouble and expense attending it is considerable, consequently the price of such queens would be nearly double the ordinary price. So few would purchase that I fear the enterprise would not pay.

As it is impossible to obtain queens early enough in spring to save queenless stocks, it is advisable to unite such stocks with other stocks that are weak, or rather with stocks that have become greatly depopulated during winter. This will often prove of great benefit to a stock weak in point of numbers. The addition of more bees increases the heat in the hive, and causes the queen to lay a greater number of eggs, and the stock increases in numbers far more rapidly than it otherwise would have done. The hive and