

thick as a common knitting needle, and twenty-three inches long, as nearly as it could be measured. I kept it in a 4-ounce bottle in hydrant water, which was changed occasionally. It amused itself by looping into all sorts of complex knots, and again straightening out, but so slowly that its movements were tedious to observe. With age the colour faded to pale yellow. It lived till March, when unfortunately I supplied it with boiled water (cold, however,) from the hot water spigot, and when I observed it again it was lifeless, and had turned brown. It is now in alcohol. This occurred three years ago, and I was promised more specimens, but till date none have come to hand. My acquaintance with *Gordius* is limited to the statements found in works of entomology, where it is alluded to as parasitic only on insects and spiders. Though not strictly entomological, a paper from some one acquainted with this family would prove very instructive.

TEXAN FORFICULIDÆ.

BY SAMUEL H. SCUDDER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Only seven species of this family of Orthoptera are as yet known from Texas. More species must occur along the southern border, but so little attention has been paid to this family that it may be long before the fauna is fairly well known. Perhaps the publication of this list may help to swell the number. One species is described more fully than ever before for readier identification. All the species mentioned are briefly characterized in a synopsis of the N. American species in the Bulletin of the U. S. Geol. Surv. Terr., vol. ii., p. 249.

Labidura riparia (Pall.) A single specimen, from the collection of Mr. Uhler, was collected in (western?) Texas by Capt. (now Gen.) Pope, March 10.

Spongophora brunneipennis Serv. A common species, apparently, in all parts of the State. Mr. Belfrage has taken it at Clifton, and also in other parts of the State. Mr. Boll found it not uncommon at Dallas. Immature specimens were taken by him Feb. 17, and mature in bottoms on Feb. 23 and Aug. 19. This species is the *Forf. flavipes* of Schaum MSS., under which name I formerly distributed some specimens. I append a description drawn up from more than twenty specimens, mainly from Texas and Florida.