

PECULIAR HABITS OF A HEPIALID MOTH.

WITH SOME REMARKS ON THE SYNONYMY OF SAME.

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During the summer of 1910, while on a collecting trip for Dr. Wm. Barnes, of Decatur, Ill., I spent the second week of August at Cloud Cap Inn, on the northern slope of Mt. Hood, Oregon. While collecting during the early afternoon, about 2.30 p.m., on some steep, sandy slopes covered with asters and short grass, at an altitude of 6,500 feet, I noticed what I took to be some species of small Noctuid, darting with extreme rapidity in a zig-zag erratic flight close to the ground up and down the slope. The insect would fly to the top of the slope, which was bordered with dwarf pines, then turn and dart downwards, always remaining in the hottest sunshine. Following it was out of the question, owing to the nature of the ground and the rapidity of the flight; in fact, it was only with difficulty that I could keep the moth in sight at all. Finally it flew straight towards me, and by a lucky stroke of the net I secured it. My surprise was great on finding that I had captured a small *Hepialid*; I had always been under the impression that the flight of this entire group took place at dusk, for a few minutes only, and was of a heavy hovering nature rather than a swift, powerful flight; to find, therefore, a species flying in the bright sunshine with the rapidity of a bee-moth proved rather astonishing.

I kept my eyes open for further specimens, and was soon rewarded by seeing several skimming up and down the slopes in an identical manner. It was, however, one thing to see them and quite another to catch them, and after an hour's hard work I had only succeeded in securing four specimens. After 3.30 the flight seemed to die down, and I saw no more. As all the specimens taken appeared to be males, it occurred to me to search in the low herbage for females, and I was rewarded by obtaining a pair in coitu, sitting on a low stalk just above the ground.

The following day I was on the spot bright and early, but before 1.30 p.m. saw not a single specimen. The main flight occurred as on the previous day, between 2.30 and 3.30 p.m.; the insect was fairly common, but most difficult to approach. I secured two pairs in the grass and seven or eight on the wing, mostly freshly-emerged specimens.

On the third day the flight was not so good, the weather being cooler. I had, however, the good fortune to discover, about 2.30 p.m., a virgin ♀

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