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COLLECTING TERRESTRIAL ARTHROPODS IN BARBADOS AND ANTIGUA, BRITISH WEST INDIES.

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(Continued from p. 178.)

II. ANTIGUA.

The island of Antigua is situated in latitude $17^{\circ} 6' N.$, and is the principal island of the Leeward group of which it is the political capital. It is roughly oval in outline, twenty-four miles long by about fifteen broad, with an area of 108 square miles and a population of about 36,000. The central part of the island is low and flat and the soil more or less clayey; the southern and south-western parts, in the vicinity of English Harbour, where a large share of the collecting was done, are volcanic and mountainous and covered, in many places, with dense forests. The greatest elevation is about 1,500 feet. To the north and northeast the soil is composed of calcareous marls and coarse sandstones.

Extended periods of drought often visit the island, and the average annual rainfall is a little less than fifty inches. As a result of the nature of the soil and the protracted dry periods the uncultivated vegetation is largely of a xerophytic nature. However, the soil where it can be worked at all is fertile and retains well the small amount of moisture. Sugar is the principal industry although corn, yams and pineapples are cultivated on a small scale.

Antigua is not under so high a state of cultivation as is Barbados; neither is it so thickly populated as that island; natural enemies of insects are not numerous—all these conditions make for a more abundant and varied insect fauna than we found at Barbados.

The majority of native Antiguan living in the rural districts and small villages are extremely poor, but they are neither so inquisitive nor so insistent on offering their services in collecting specimens as are the Barbadian negroes. This was a great relief to us, and much less trying on our temper and vocabulary.

While the Imperial Department of Agriculture maintains some of its activities on Antigua there is at present no resident entomologist, and we came upon none of the inhabitants of the island who were particularly interested in entomology as a science.

Of the lower forms of terrestrial Arthropods, scorpions and tarantulas, as well as other forms of Arachnids, are abundant. In low-wooded areas, under dried leaves, we found considerable numbers of a large brachypterous cockroach, but in reaching out to seize these agile fellows it was necessary for the collector to look sharply in order to make sure that a scorpion or two did not lurk close enough to be dangerous. Centipedes are not uncommon in moist places.

In addition to the large cockroach above mentioned, two other forms, *Periplaneta australasiae* and *P. americana* are also very common. A greater