

The Canadian Entomologist.

Vol. XLIII.

LONDON, APRIL, 1911.

No. 4

BEETLES FOUND ABOUT FOLIAGE.

BY F. J. A. MORRIS, TRINITY COLLEGE SCHOOL, PORT HOPE, ONT.

During my five years or more of collecting, I have captured, on and about foliage, species belonging to eight or ten of the great families of beetles. Some of these have been merely incidental, and I know of nothing in their habits to connect them with the tree or herbaceous plant on which I found them. For instance, there is a species of *Lagriid*, a family closely related to the *Tenebrionidæ* or Darkling beetles, which I have often taken on foliage—*Arthromacra ænea*; usually the beetle is found feeding in blossoms of the dogwood, occasionally on the foliage of that shrub, but quite often I have seen it on the leaves of the May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), the New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), and the Sweet Fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*); it appears to have a special fondness for this last shrub, and on bright, hot days of July, is often abundant in patches of Sweet Fern.

So far as I know, it does not eat the leaves, but, contrary to the general habit of the *Tenebrionids*, it certainly courts bright sunshine. There is an allied genus in Great Britain (*Lagria hirta*) said to be found on blossoms and in hedges, which, even in the larval stage, is remarkable for its habit of wandering openly about foliage. Most of the *Tenebrionid* larvæ feed obscurely on vegetable matter, preferably in a dry condition; probably the best known—in domestic economy—is *Tenebrio molitor*, the famous meal-worm, which I have occasionally had served to me at breakfast in a plate of porridge.

There are three families of beetles in particular, many of whose members are extremely fond of sunshine. The *Elaters* or Click Beetles, their next of kin, the *Buprestids* or Metallic Wood-borers, and the *Cerambycidæ* or Long-horns.

I have often captured some of the smaller species of *Elaters*, chiefly of the genus *Corymbites*, resting on the upper side of leaves, apparently indulging in the luxury of a sun-bath. Early in May two seasons ago I