

upper face finer. First recurrent nervure received by the second submarginal cell in the middle, second recurrent nervure received by the third submarginal cell near the base. Spiracles of the first segment of the abdomen situated upon tubercles.

One ♀ specimen. Plainville, Conn., Aug. 30, 1871.

NOTES ON THE HUMBLE BEES.

BY G. J. BOWLES, MONTREAL, P. Q.

(Read before the Montreal Branch of the Ent. Soc. of Ontario.)

Packard places the Hymenoptera at the head of the Class Insecta, on account of the completeness of their transformations and the perfection of their instincts. This is also the position assigned to this Order by Dana. Packard ranks the Bees (Apidae) at the head of the Hymenoptera, thus placing them at the very summit of the insect creation. Cresson, however, in his "Catalogue of the Described Species of N. A. Hymenoptera," has them a long way down the list, after the Ants, Wasps, etc. Who shall decide when such authorities disagree?

I wish to draw attention to the Humble Bees of this part of Canada, giving as far as I can the names of the species found here and some notes on their economy, the latter chiefly taken from Putnam's paper published in 1863.

The genus *Bombus*, says Swainson, appears to be a Northern and chiefly European and American genus; there are very few inter-tropical species, and very few Oriental. Some of the tropical species, however, are very large, much larger than those found in temperate climates. As regards North America, Cresson, in 1863, enumerated 46 species, of which the greater number are found in the northern part of the continent. I have carefully tabulated his list, and find that the arrangement of their habitats is as follows, beginning at the South: Mexico 6, Southern States 3, Middle 7, Western 5, Kansas and Utah 8, California 2, New England 8, Canada 7, Hudson Bay 5, Arctic 13, Sitka 3, Greenland 1, unknown