

INSECTS AFFECTING DRUGS.

Editor Can. Ent.—*Dear Sir*: To the list of drug insects observed in this country, as given by Mr. Wm. Edwin Saunders in the May number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, I have two additions to make. One is the Tobacco-beetle, *Lasioderma serricornis* Fabr., a well known pest in many cigar factories in the U. S. I found this in a drug store at Detroit, Mich., where the larvæ had completely honeycombed a lot of rhubarb. The same habit of the species has been recorded by European writers. The second addition is *Cryphalus jalappæ* Letzner, a small, inconspicuous Scolytid beetle, probably originating from Mexico, which has been carried by commerce all over the world. It was first found by Mr. H. G. Hubbard and myself in 1874, in the Medical Laboratory of the U. S. Navy Yard at Brooklyn, N. Y., and later observed by myself in drug stores at Detroit, Mich., and Washington, D. C. It occurs only in *Radix jalappæ*. The species has to my knowledge never before been recorded from North America, but will no doubt be found wherever the drug mentioned above is kept.

Yours truly,

Washington, D. C., June 8, 1883.

E. A. SCHWARZ.

DAMAGE CAUSED BY ANTS.

Early in the month of June I discovered that certain portions of the flooring and supports of my verandah were giving way, and I accordingly sent for a carpenter to do the necessary repairs. On taking up the flooring I found two nests of large black ants, and examination showed that nearly the whole damage was caused by these insects. Large joists were very much excavated, and in some cases eaten completely through; two pillars or posts eight inches square were eaten out to a distance of some two feet from the floor, and unless prompt measures had been taken the corner of the verandah would in all probability have given way. I had noticed these ants for a couple of years back, but never dreamt that they were so numerous or were doing so much injury. I sent specimens to my friend, Dr. Hagen, and asked his opinion as to remedy. He writes me that the ant is *Formica ligniperda* Latr. (*Camponotus ligniperdus* Mayr). He recommends an application of boiling water in which soft soap has been largely dissolved.

E. B. REED.