

Moreover, there are 8 of uncertain origin. From this tabulation he deduces that nearly 84 per cent. of the common genera have migrated by the Behring route.

His conclusions are as follows :

1st. There is a certain number of species and genera of Hemiptera which are common to Europe and North America.

2nd. The greater part of these common Hemiptera is native to the Palæarctic region and belongs to the temperate zone.

3rd. The migration of these Hemiptera has taken place mainly by way of Behring Straits.

4th. The few southern types common to the two continents originated in the intertropical region, whence they came independently to enrich the Palæarctic and Nearctic faunas.

5th. Artificial importation plays only a secondary role in the spread of European-American Hemiptera ; but it is Europe that has supplied America, along with cultivated plants, with more species than the latter has received from Europe.

(To be continued.)

THE BITER BIT.

Everybody knows that toads are great insect destroyers, accepting nauseous species, and not refusing even stinging bees, so I was surprised the other day, on hearing the cry of a toad in pain, to find one nearly the size of a hen's egg attacked by a ground beetle a little over an inch long and half an inch broad, belonging to the genus *Dicaelus*. These beetles are broad and flat, black, with a blue line on the outer edges of the elytra. The toad was held by the middle of the upper arm by the powerful jaws of the beetle, and vainly struggled to push off its assailant with the other limbs, and the beetle actually tried to carry the toad away, pushing it ahead two or three inches while I watched. The toad had a bloody wound in its shoulder, and bite-marks, corresponding to the beetle's jaws, all along its flank and thigh, so the fight must have lasted a considerable time. The beetle frequently relaxed its hold slightly to take a better bite; it held on like a bulldog, with no intent of letting go while I carried them to the house to show to my wife, and indeed I had to pry the beetle's jaws apart to separate the combatants. These *Dicaelus* beetles are rather common here, but I never knew them to prey on vertebrate animals before.—THEODORE L. MEAD, Oviedo, Fla.