

fell into the river gave nourishment or bait to the fish, which grew to a large size this season - and the Indians caught them in great quantities, especially eels in the vicinity of Toniata.

All the soil on that island, which is very shallow, was covered this season with thousands of little toads. In the environs we found plenty of mushrooms five or six inches apart and nearly three inches thick at the base, of a most luscious taste. M. de Vaudrenil sent up at that time, forty Abenakes from down the river, to whom M. Pouchot gave the Isle des Galots to plant.

sting, were evidently one or more species of the extensive genus *Chironomus*, the larvæ of which likewise live in the water, and which in their perfect state are excessively numerous in damp, shaded situations along the margins of streams, where they frequently associate together to engage in aerial dances, in swarms made up of such immense numbers that at a short distance off they appear like clouds of smoke. These midges are such tiny creatures, and so very soft and delicate that they might appropriately be termed flakes of entomological *nil à l'album*, or the fishes' *blanc-mange* (food for fish, being the only purpose for which they appear to have been created). Hence, although their numbers are so immense, I have never met with an instance in which their perishing remains were strewn upon the ground so profusely as to impart their color to the surface; and the statement that they occurred on this island in such quantities as to cover the surface, in some places to a depth of two to four inches, and requiring to be shovelled aside like newly fallen snow, appears almost incredible, none of our accounts of these insects recording any approach to a similar phenomenon.

In each of these groups of insects which I have mentioned, the species are so numerous, and many of them so closely similar to each other, that it is only by observations made at the locality referred to, and at the same period of the year, that the particular species to which M. Pouchot alludes can be ascertained.

Respectfully yours,

ASA FITCH.