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OBSERVATIONS ON MITES INFESTING THE HORN FLY, *HEMATOBIA SERRATA* ROB. DESV.

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The mites were first observed on July 3rd at Duncans, British Columbia. My attention was drawn to them by seeing several specimens of *Hematobia serrata* Rob. Desv., which appeared to have been powdered with brick-dust; on looking more closely I found that they were heavily infested with mites. Out of 118 flies captured I found 94 infested with mites, but as mites were seen travelling from one dead fly to another it was difficult to arrive at a positive determination. This estimate was made with the aid of a hand lens; the number found on each fly varied; some had 4, 5, others were covered.

Later I found the mites in other parts of British Columbia. This occurrence, coupled with the fact that *H. serrata* does not seem to have been such a serious pest during the past summer (1910), as it usually is, suggests to my mind that the mite may prove to be detrimental to the fly.

On one farm I visited frequently during the summer, who the owner had been spraying his cattle said that the spraying had diminished the number of flies. He was asked to stop spraying for a time, and no apparent increase was noted.

On communicating with Mr. N. Criddle, of Treesbank, Manitoba, I learned that *H. serrata* in that locality did not appear to be infested with mites.

Some living infested flies were shipped to Mr. Criddle, but arrived dried up and dead. No further attempt was made to try and infect clean flies in a new locality.

The introduction of *H. serrata* into British Columbia dates back some years. I find a record of a specimen taken by Miss Ricardo at Vernon in July, 1902.