

Kansas Academy of Science for 1876, a slight account was published by Mr. H. A. Brous, but from the very small number taken by him, his article was necessarily imperfect. I have taken more than five hundred living specimens from the plains of Western Kansas during the past two years, and have watched their habits closely. Without being aware of Dr. LeConte's suggestion as to their nocturnal habits, one would readily arrive at that conclusion from the large numbers of their remains constantly met with scattered about, or in the excrement of nocturnal birds. With the first living specimen their peculiar habitat was readily understood. They may be met with in great abundance on gently sloping banks of firm loam, but partially covered with vegetation; they will not live in banks at all sandy. They never burrow, but enter any convenient hole at the approach of the sun, to come out again and wander in search of food at sunset. In cloudy days they will remain out, but with the first sunlight they disappear into their retreats, not to return until evening. The first one taken this year was on a pleasant evening in May, the 21st; but, though hunted for assiduously, no more were taken till near the middle of June. In a week or two later they were found in the greatest abundance.

The males, at first numerous, invariably soon begin to decrease in number, and are more abundant early in the evening. By the middle of September the females also have become rare.

The eggs are deposited near the surface of the ground, in groups of from one to two dozen. The young larvæ immediately burrow downwards, but come to the surface at dark to lie in wait for food, which consists mostly of ants and small insects. The holes are extended to surprising depths. In some instances I have traced them for nearly three feet. The mature larvæ are over two inches long, with very strong mandibles and maxillæ. They may be found most readily either in May or August. Singularly unlike the imago, they are very shy and easily alarmed.

The adult beetle might very appropriately be called stupid. Their power of sight is *extremely* feeble. Wandering aimlessly about in search of food, they are first apprised of their prey by their antennæ, when by a short, sudden spring they fasten their relentless mandibles into their victim.

Their food consists in large part of the smaller apterous Tenebrionidæ, such as the *Eleodes* or *Aside* that are found on the plains in such abundance, especially during the time and in the places so peculiar to the