

litterally stripped the leaves from these plants, preferring them apparently to thistles. Other butterflies had been scarce.

Prof. Osborn said in Iowa butterflies had been unusually common.

Mr. Underwood said he had found butterflies unusually common in Central N. Y, *turnus* especially, but for five weeks spent in Conn. everything was scarce excepting *cardui*.

Prof. Fernald said in the first part of the season insects were very rare. Butterflies alone appeared about as common as usual, *turnus* unusually common; *cardui* had been rare until this summer, when it was common. Last season Mrs. Fernald had collected both at sugar and at flowers cultivated because of their attraction to insects, and flowers had proved most productive; this season the reverse has been the case.

Mr. Mann, referring to a remark made that cold winters were favorable to insect life, said that seemed to be the generally accepted theory now, and appeared borne out by facts.

Mr. Aaron said that everywhere insects are reported as exceedingly scarce. His brother from Texas so writes; from Florida, Arizona and California come the same complaints. The remarks on the abundance of *cardui* reminded him of a saying of Mr. Ridings that he was always afraid of a season in which *cardui* was common, for then nothing else would be found.

Mr. Smith said he believed cold winters favorable to insect life, but this year there was not only a cold winter, but there were several very severe frosts late in spring, one as late as June 14th-15th; it was rather these late frosts that were to be blamed for the dearth of insect life. On Cape Cod insects were unusually rare; in Vermont, where hundreds of good insects were last year taken at sugar, scarcely one fourth the number of common forms were this year found.

Dr. Hoy said that in his vicinity, far north as it is, he has taken many insects usually considered southern—more than were taken on the east of the lake. There seems to be a northern extension of the thermal line on the west of the lakes. Last season he found four specimens of the black variety of *turnus*; before only a single specimen had been found.

Mr. Saunders had never known this black variety to occur in Canada.

Dr. Merriam had found *turnus* in the central Adirondack region nearly as far north as Racine, three to four thousand feet above the sea. There were often hundreds at puddles, and among them many of this black variety.