

the *P. celtidis-mamma* of Riley, are not one and the same insect—the Peppered Flea-louse of my own description. They may be very distinct species, but Prof. Riley has not yet made it clear that they are.

THOS. W. FYLES.

Dear Sir,—I write to you in reference to *Sphyracephala brevicornis*, Say; the only representative of the family *Diopidae* and the genus *Sphyracephala* in the United States. This curious and seemingly rare Dipteron was taken by me on the 18th of August last; on that occasion I took three specimens in about five minutes, but had to leave the place as quickly as possible on account of an approaching storm; but, however, I visited the same place two weeks later and succeeded in taking about a dozen specimens in about half an hour. The specimens were taken in Fairmount Park, near the same locality where Say first took his specimens. Although I have been seeking this insect for two seasons, this was the first time I ever saw it, its small size is very apt to make it escape the notice of any general collector. My specimens were caught on some plants growing near a small brook. They seem to be very local indeed, for I have hunted in similar situations over the Park and in the county, but have never seen any except in that one particular spot. *Ochthera mantis* DeG. is also taken in damp situations, but this fly is quite common and can be taken nearly all the summer, for, comparing my notes, I took it on May 7, June 17, during July, August 5 and 12. Hoping my observations may be of some avail to collectors in hunting it, I remain,

Philadelphia, Oct. 8, 1883.

EUGENE L. KEEN.

#### EGGS OF NEMATUS VENTRICOSUS.

*Nematus ventricosus* was seen to deposit thirty eggs, June 7, upon a single currant leaf within one hour. In the act of ovipositing, it curved the tip of its abdomen downward and forward, directing its ovipositor toward its head, in which position the end of the egg is seen to protrude and attach itself to the leaf-nervure, when the ovipositor is withdrawn, and the egg left in position. Moving backward a very little, another egg is similarly deposited, and in like manner the operation is continued, until the leaf has its assigned quota, or the supply of eggs is exhausted. The eggs produced their larvæ on June 14th.—*Psyche*, May-June, 1883.