

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENTOMOLOGY OF THE  
SELKIRK MOUNTAINS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—I.  
INTRODUCTORY.

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In company with a party of botanists and others, the writer spent the summer of 1905 in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia, much of the time in scientifically unexplored parts of that beautiful range. The Selkirks occupy the major part of the Kootenay district of south-eastern British Columbia. It will be seen by reference to a map that they are bounded on practically all sides by the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers and the long and narrow Kootenay Lake. They form, especially in the northern part, an exceedingly rugged region of lofty peaks and ridges, cut by deep, densely-wooded valleys. The vegetation is said to be much denser than in the Rockies of corresponding latitude, and differs somewhat from it in the nature of its trees, etc. It certainly is almost impenetrable in many places, and to take a pack animal where there is no cut trail is out of the question.

The region is divided by the Canadian Pacific Railway into a northern and southern district, more or less differentiated in natural as well as other features. The southern part is a mining country, and in some of the valleys are occasional mining settlements, and even railroads and small towns. It contains a few large lakes, on one of the most beautiful of which is situated the little town of Kaslo, where Dr. Dyar and Messrs. Currie and Caudell made the headquarters of their expedition of the previous season, and where Mr. Cockle, an enthusiastic entomologist, has accumulated an extensive cabinet of local insects. Some distance north of this, on the shore of Howser Lake, our party spent two weeks, and considerable collecting was had. A little marl bog on the opposite shore furnished collecting grounds of a type not elsewhere met with.

The northern district is not penetrated more than a mile or two from the railroad by any evidence of civilization, excepting three or four small mining camps and the occasional hut of a trapper. Even the latter is very, very scarce. Although scientists have sometimes penetrated into the Rockies north of the railroad, they have not, so far as I am aware, entered here. Yet the region is attractive in the highest degree. The