

differences might be overcome, as some of the individuals of *aphodioides* have the margin semi-serrate, and the punctures of the striae nearly as far apart, and a corresponding approximation of the other species in the other line would about cause them to meet.

*Nicagus obscurus* Lec. The position of the genus of which this species is the only known representative has been a matter of no little discussion by systematists; to some it is a Lucanide, while others—among them the authors of the Classification, find the Scarabaeidan characters to preponderate. See Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 2 s., v. 1, p. 86; and Classification, p. 245.

April 23rd of last year, I took 63 specimens, five only of which were females; these with one exception differed greatly from the other sex in size and appearance, being much larger, more convex, less hairy and with the elytra evidently striate, resembling some *Sericea*. The exception, however, differed chiefly from the males by its shorter tarsi and stouter tibiae. In death the joints of the antennal club are mostly open, but in life they seemed capable of being closed contiguously, though the want of a lens prevented me from verifying this absolutely.

They were all taken on the margin of a creek on a deep deposit of loose, white sand, left on the recedence of the spring flood. The day was very warm, and they were first noticed about 3 p.m. coming seemingly from an adjoining pasture ground, and disappearing suddenly in about an hour on the sun clouding over. They flew very slowly, circling around close to the sand as if in search of something, and alighting in tracks and indentations, they were easily picked up. Just why they resort to sand deposits is not understood; it may be for sexual purposes, but if so they cannot live there in the larval state, because these sand beds are swept away by every overflow; it may be for warmth (as in the case of *Cotalpa lanigera*, several specimens of which I took there that evidently came for the heat), but others have observed them doing the same thing in the heat of midsummer; or it may be in search of decomposing shell fish, but there were none there, and in fact it is not proven that the larvæ live on decaying animal substances, though once found near dead *Unios*, and in the light of other facts I would say such is improbable, were it not that long ago I adopted the motto "*Festina lente*," in deciding adversely to the opinions of accurate and distinguished observers. The species seems widely distributed in the Atlantic States, from Michigan southward,