

A few insects were collected at Point Barrow (cape Smyth), by the United States International Polar Expedition (Murdoch), and have been provisionally identified by Riley, in the report of the said expedition (Washington, 1884), as follows:—

<i>Chironomus</i> sp.	}	Diptera.
<i>Scatophaga</i> sp.		
Tachinid (<i>Euphorocera</i> ?)		
<i>Anthomyia</i> sp.		
Tipulid (<i>Ctenophora</i> sp.)		
Can. Entomol., 1917-1918.		
<i>Tipula coracina</i> Alex.		
<i>Cordylura</i> sp.		
<i>Oedemagena tarandi</i>		
Phryganeoid		
Perlid (<i>Leptocerus</i> sp.)	}	Neuropteroids.
<i>Bombus moderatus</i>		
" <i>sytricola</i>	}	Hymenoptera.
<i>Procerus flavicornis</i>		
<i>Dasychira rossii</i>	}	Lepidoptera.
<i>Amara obtusa</i>		
Chrysomelid	}	Coleoptera.

COAST BETWEEN POINT BARROW AND MACKENZIE DELTA

The Arctic mountains stretch from cape Lisburne to the Mackenzie delta and their foothills merge gradually into the coastal plain that reaches the Arctic ocean. The beach is formed, sometimes by tundra bluffs up to 30 feet in height and sometimes by low alluvial plains fringed by sandpits and lagoons. The chains of islands off the coast have a similar composition. The width of the coastal plain is greatest at point Barrow, where it is more than 150 miles, but decreases to the southwest, so that the mountains are within 12 miles of the ocean at a point east of the 141st meridian, and the foothills sometimes usurp the place of the plain. The rivers, some very large, of this part of Alaska and Yukon receive many tributaries from the foothills, and when these lateral creeks have finally been left behind, the watercourses run fairly straight to the north, for the hills along the Mackenzie delta prevent an eastern outflow. Ground ice is found to varying depths, especially west of Camden bay. The vegetation is the typical Arctic tundra, best developed in valley-bottoms and in the extensive coastal swamps where most of the many lakes or ponds are situated (Pl. V. fig. 2). An enormous quantity of driftwood, from the Mackenzie, lines the beach at certain places, and the coastline is subjected to a continuous erosion by waves or screw-ice at some parts and upbuilding by sand and gravel at others. Even where the coastal plain is missing, as east of Stokes point, lagoons, sandbars, and gravel spits are formed at or near the mouths of rivers. Shingle point is a conspicuous example of this, presenting a shelter for boats.

Herschel island¹ and the coast opposite and eastward are well covered by vegetation, which is surprisingly abundant on low or protected parts.

The developments of plant and insect life are so intimately connected that the study of one involves the study of both, and also, of course, of climatic conditions, the influence of which has been dealt with in the report on climate and in Mr. F. W. L. Sladen's report.² The development of plant-life especially affects the non-predacious insects such as certain coleoptera, diptera and the lepidoptera, sawflies, and bees.

Such plants as mosses, *Cassiope*, *Saxifraga*, *Ranunculus*, etc., which, during the melting of the snow, are immersed in water, bear green or new leaves at the beginning of May—earlier than is the case with those plants that draw their power only from the sun.

¹ For topographical description see Geol. Surv., Can., Sum. Rept., 1915, p. 236, J. J. O'Neill.

² Report Canadian Arctic Exped., 1915-18, III, G. 1919.