

*The occurrence of Rhyncholophus sp. on Lepidoptera, observed at Kaslo, B. C.*

The occurrence of small ticks on the bodies of specimens of Lepidoptera has often been brought to my attention when examining freshly captured specimens.

I submitted some of the specimens to Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, who wrote me that they were a species of *Rhyncholophus*, a mite which attaches itself to insects upon which it feeds. All the family are predacious and wander over plants and soil in search of prey.

My records of their occurrence during last spring show a wide range of host; specimens were taken from the following list. The number after the name denotes the number taken from each specimen listed. Amongst the Noctuids I noted

*Tæniocampa communis* Dyar, 7.

*Tæniocampa curtica*, 2

*Hadena dubitans*, 1.

*Peridroma nigra*, 3.

And on the Geometers

*Mesoleuca intermediata*, 1.

*Cænocalpe magnoliata*, 1.

The extreme variation in the size of these mites ranged from 1.4 mm., for the largest, to 0.4 mm. for the smallest specimen.

The colour in all cases was bright red, which is maintained in the specimens when mounted, provided that they are not submerged in ether too long, in which case the colour is either entirely lost in the smaller specimens or remains a dull orange.

The usual point of attachment is in the fold between the thorax and abdomen under the wings, but in one case I found one attached to the median nervule on the underside of the primary.

They are very resistant towards cyanide. Moths which had been placed in the killing bottle for over one hour were found to have mites attached, and these proved to be alive when examined the following morning.

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Mailed September 8th, 1914.