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NOTES ON SOME INSECTS OF NOVA SCOTIA AND CANADA.

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The following communication is introductory to a few remarks on the Nova Scotian and Canadian Insects which I have received through the kindness of J. M. Jones, Esq., W. Saunders, Esq., and Prof. Croft.

The study of the geographical distribution of Insects has become more interesting by the difference of opinion as to the origin and diffusion of species. The insects of separate arctic regions have a great mutual resemblance, and the difference between them increases in the successive concentric circles from the above regions towards the equator. It has been said that the advance of the glacial period was accompanied by the migration of insects southward, and that the present distribution of insects was effected by the prevalence of this epoch and by the succeeding temperate epoch. During the diminution of the glacial, the arctic species of the present time migrated northward or ascended the mountains, and thus caused the partial identity of the insects of the Alps with those of the North. The similarity of insects of widely separated regions, such as North Europe, North America, and North-east Asia, chiefly consists in the arctic or northern forms; the difference between them is found in the species that have advanced northward in later times. Some species inhabit both the South and the North, and occur in Hindostan as well as in North Europe, but the rest appear either to have wholly continued in the South, or to have wholly migrated thence to the North. The insect-fauna of North America appears in two aspects—the northern aspect, which closely and in some cases wholly resembles that of North Europe; and the southern aspect, which is very different from that of North Europe, and consists of species that have migrated from the South as far as Canada.

The Diptera in the following list are natives of Nova Scotia, and those marked thus * also inhabit Europe.