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OPHIOGOMPHUS.

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This genus of dragon flies is one of the groups whose members are accounted rare in collections, though quite abundant in nature. With the exception of three species, two of which have only been obtained in numbers by breeding, few imagoes have been taken. Although I have collected carefully for several years in localities where a few species were common enough, I have seen but three imagoes at large, but I have bred one species by hundreds, and have seen the exuviae upon the banks of streams by tens of thousands.

Nymphs of this genus seem to prefer the sandy or gravelly beds of clear, rapid streams, flowing through rocky woods. What becomes of the countless imagoes which issue from such places by night in early summer I have not as yet been able to find out.

So long as the collector of these insects depends entirely upon an air net for his imagoes they are likely to remain rare in his collection; but even a single occasional capture of a good specimen may still add to our knowledge of the genus, since variation is considerable, descriptions are fragmentary, and specimens of most species are few.

This paper is but an excuse for the accompanying plate (5), whose figures are mainly drawn from the types of species and show the structures chiefly used in characterizing them. In its preparation I have had free use of the Hagen collection at Cambridge and of the Lintner collection at Albany—thanks to the kindness of Mr. Henshaw and of Dr. Felt, respectively. This plate and the few annotations on species which follow will serve to bring our species together in one view, and will also indicate the chief gaps in our knowledge of them.

Secondary sexual characters have been mainly used for separating *Ophiogomphus* from its nearest allies, *Onychogomphus* (fig. 32) of the Old World, and *Herpetogomphus* of the western United States and southward. The most salient of the differential characters used for the two American genera have been the form of the inferior abdominal appendage