

moth had occurred, compare the floral conditions, and note the suitable plant forms common to such stations. Working on these lines many stations from Montreal, Can., to Wilmington, Del., were visited, but the results led nowhere. What did appear was that the great semi-tidal marsh westward of Jersey City and Hoboken, N. J., yearly gave up a few of the moths, and made it apparent an established colony must be flourishing in these fastnesses. The flora of this region is of the usual luxuriance of an ancient marsh, though modified by a considerable salinity in its lower reaches. Very conspicuous are a number of giant grasses, *Phragmites phragmites*, *Spartina cynosuroides*, *Zizania aquatica*, and others, which are capable and fit to serve as food-plants. For many years we laboured under the impression that some of these grasses must be the answer to the riddle. A number of large herbaceous species also occur and the field for investigation was a large one. From a contemplative viewpoint this habitat offers much to be desired. Many of the floral conditions here have seen little change in the last piling up of centuries, certain sections remaining doubtless in their pre-Columbian verdancy, and we should, theoretically at least, find our larva easily. But the proximity to so great a population has produced much artificiality and the region is interspersed by numerous railroads that are responsible for frequent burnings. The principal hinderance to a thorough search, however, is the fact that the territory is wet to submergence except during very droughty times.

Our meeting with the larva of *P. inquasita* in a Cryptogam, in 1898, made us early mindful of the ferns, though the food-plants of the genus centre principally among the Composites. Light dawned in 1912 when *P. stenocelis* proves a fern feeder, for *inquasita*, *stenocelis* and *speciosissima* are a trio aloof from the allies, and it becomes clear we must now also look for the latter in a fern. But what fern was peculiar to the Jersey Meadows? Early in 1913 we found a young borer at work in *Aspidium*, at Rye, but the instance did not reflect a normal operation for our desideratum. Latterly, Mr. Otto Buchholz, of Elizabeth, N. J., had rendered assistance in the Jersey Meadow hunt, being close by the field, and keen, through a wide experience and with a skill rarely equalled, for detective work of this nature. Upon being advised