

western Syrphids in general, and what is well known in regard to both animals and plants, viz., the agreement of Pacific species with those of Europe. If, as Williston has suggested, the course of the distribution in this family has been from west to east, British Columbia would seem to be in the path of distribution. In this connection it is worthy of note that there is found a much larger number of eastern species in British Columbia than in California or elsewhere on the west coast. However, in the present state of our knowledge, this latter fact may bear another interpretation. The mountain passes are much lower to the northward and the region of high altitude is much narrower. There is also distinctly more vegetation, and these conditions would make the passage of eastern species westward easier toward the north, and this might account for the greater number of eastern species than is found farther southward. The number of species of the genus *Syrphus* (17) in this list is somewhat remarkable; 13 are known from Alaska. The west is far richer in this genus than the east. For instance, New Jersey, which has been carefully worked, has 8 species. The same thing is noticeable in the genera *Platychirus*, *Chilosia*, *Sphaerophoria* and *Melanostoma*. On the other hand, the common eastern genera, *Pipiza*, *Xanthogramma*, *Spilomyia* and *Temnostoma*, have not thus far been noted in British Columbia.

In the preparation of this paper the writer has had the opportunity of comparing with types and identified material in the National Museum at Washington, in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., and in the American Museum of Natural History at New York, thanks to Curators Coquillett, Henshaw and Beutenmuller.

A number of species still remain undetermined, and some of these are apparently new. These will not be listed here, but will await publication until such time as a careful comparison with the literature of European species can be made in order to avoid needless duplication of specific names in a family already too rich in synonyms. In the following list all material not otherwise indicated has been taken by the writer :

1. *Microdon tristis*, Loew.—A single female specimen in my collection, bearing the data "Br. Col., June 16, 1898," seems to belong here, although it is larger than the eastern *tristis*, the fourth segment of the abdomen is nearly bare, the pile of the front and vertex is black, and the tibiæ and tarsi are brownish-red instead of reddish-yellow. It approaches most nearly to the variety *cothurnatus*, Bigot, which has been recorded from Oregon.