

"Of *A. spinosus*, I examined 16 specimens, all of which agree with each other in every particular, while *A. Howardi* shows distinct and marked differences." (Oct. 29, 1894)

It will be seen from the above, that the credit of differentiating this new species is very largely due to Mr. Pergande. Although this beginning of our information concerning it is very inadequate, there will, I trust, be no further difficulty about its separation from its congeners, thanks to Mr. Pergande's excellent comparative studies. It is apparent from this and other similar instances, how great is the advantage of having the types preserved in some place where reference can be made to them. Descriptions are often imperfect, and even those by the best authors frequently omit some characters differentiating the species from others not at that time discovered.

[P. S.—I have just received the following information from Prof. Gillette regarding the occurrence of *Aspidiotus Howardi* :—"A very few scattering scales were found in one orchard at Cañon City—the owner of the orchard I do not know—and the others were all found on the fruit of a native plum tree. The tree was in the back door-yard of a Mr. Helm, and growing beside a tight board fence. Most of the scales were on plums next the fence and near the ground in the shade. Most of the fruits in that position had from one to three or four scales."—T. D. A. C.]

PRELIMINARY STUDIES IN SIPHONAPTERA.—I.

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The following will form the first of a series of papers on the Siphonaptera, in which will be mentioned all known species, together with such new species as have come to my notice. Besides what has been drawn from the examination of a large series of specimens in my own collection, and many kindly sent me by Taschenberg, Howard, Bruner, Osborn, Comstock and others, I have borrowed freely from previous papers on the subject, and especially from Taschenberg's "Die Flohe."

The existing number of species of this order will undoubtedly be found to very greatly exceed the number already known. A large proportion of mammalian animals probably act as hosts to various species of fleas, but the list of hosts as at present known is comparatively very small indeed. The group, though certainly an interesting one, has been very much neglected. I would suggest that during the immediate future, collectors in all quarters pay particular attention to the collecting of these forms.