

NOTES ON COLEOPTERA.—No. 5.

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Cicindela. A glance over the catalogue shows many names marked as varieties of others, and a glance into the boxes of any fair collection shows these same to have a diversity of appearance, that in many instances requires an educated experience to reconcile with their being specifically identical; as for example, a green *C. sex-guttata* and a black *consentanea*, or an immaculate green *unicolor* and a black *modesta*. With systematists, size, color and markings have no primary weight in specific identity; that is, when the species are not *made*. It is not here purposed to enter on the relation of races, the determining causes of which are beyond reasonable conjecture and must have been indefinitely remote, since hereditary reversion to a common ancestral type is obsolete, and many varieties breed true to themselves without producing any of the others; but, to protest against the practice some collectors have of ignoring varieties in making exchanges, as sending *vulturina* or *prasina* instead of *obsoleta*; and to advise that they be treated as species. Indeed it is quite possible when their internal anatomy is better known and structures like the sexual organs studied and used in systematic work, as has been done by Dr. Horn in *Corphyra*, some of these varieties may turn out to be species. I take var. *consentanea* and var. *modesta* abundantly in the pine woods of New Jersey near the coast, basking in the sunshine on the white sand, but neither *sex-guttata*, nor *scutellaris*, nor any intervening varieties are found near there, and I doubt greatly whether the opposite sexes would recognize relationship or produce fertile offspring. *C. repanda* and var. *12-guttata* are found in great plenty here and do not appear to mingle, each race confining itself to its own territory—the former to the river shore and benches, the latter to the rocky creeks and adjacent plateaus—and are not known to hybridize or in any way acknowledge kinship. The above recommendation is intended to apply to the other families of Coleoptera as well as to *Cicindela*, and it is believed every race that is distinct should have a name for the convenience of collectors, if for no other purpose.

Dyschirius. The following, with the other named beetles, were taken Aug. 27th, on Brigantine Island, N. J., in a salt marsh on a sandy spot about three feet by two and elevated some six inches above the level of