

woods, especially in moist hollows; August, 1878, he found the beetles quite common, and in fact injuring the roots of ash trees in Babylon, L. I. Miss Emily L. Morton, Newburgh, N. J., states the frequent occurrence of *X. satyrus* on Long Island at various places, but has never seen a specimen of it taken in her own collecting grounds, New Windsor, N. Y., or vicinity. I have never made any lists of the distribution of insects except, of course, for some orders which belong to my special studies; but I have many times missed such a reference list for Coleoptera. I have been now informed that such a list is in the way of preparation. Even if I had time enough to undertake such a large work, I would have been prevented from doing it for a certain reason. If local lists should be taken as a basis for such a reference list of N. Am., it would be necessary to assume that the determinations of the species are unquestionable. That this is not the case in some lists of Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, I have been shown by specialists. Therefore if such a reference list should be of value, it must be worked by specialists who are able to control carefully the determinations. As in my large correspondence I am often asked to give information of the occurrence of species in certain localities, my way to answer these queries is to consult the collections in my care. So for beetles, the N. A. collection formed out of the collections of Melsheimer, Ziegler, Lewis, A. Agassiz, and all other beetles, formerly belonging to the Museum. Further, the collections of Dr. LeConte, Lt. Casey, and of the Peabody Academy, the two latter ones now belonging to the Museum; and finally of the general collection. If the result is not sufficient, I would like to apply to the knowledge of specialists, and the prompt answers now given will mostly settle the question. I should add that at least for Lepidoptera, I did begin the arrangement of the collection in a way to form a reference list, in placing a specimen of every State and of other important localities in the boxes, to have a graphical view of the distribution of each species. I have retained for this purpose specimens often in a very bad condition. But this plan, by which sometimes a whole box was needed for one species, outgrew the given limits of space. Nevertheless, for Odonata and some other families belonging to my specialty, I still retain this arrangement, which has given for some species of large distribution two closely filled boxes, and even more. When such species are studied and finally outworked, it will be of course possible to diminish the number of specimens. It would be an error to believe that I could do all this myself. My intention is to bring all specimens present in the