

ENTOMOLOGY

Edited by JAMES FLETCHER, F.R.S.C.

Meloe niger, Kirby. The Black Oil-beetle makes its appearance in the first sunny days of spring, while the snow still lingers in shady corners, and may often be seen crawling on the city sidewalks, apparently having issued from the adjacent lawns. There are certain sections of sidewalk upon which they may then be captured daily. This beetle is easily recognized by its abbreviated elytra and absence of wings; its colour is a greenish black. W. H. H.

Toxotus vittiger, Rand. A specimen of this pretty longicorn was beaten from Oak at Casselman, on June 26th, 1883, and on the 10th of present June, Mr. Fletcher secured a dozen specimens flying about, or on the flowers of *Osmorrhiza longistylis*, in the same locality. W. H. H.

Donacia pubescens, Lec. This distinct species appears to be local, and to appear early in the season. In 1878, Mr. Fletcher took six examples near Billings Bridge, and it was not collected again until this June, when it was specially looked for in the same locality, and several specimens were taken by sweeping bullrushes (*Typha*) and grasses along the banks of the Rideau river. *D. jucunda* and *D. subtilis* were abundant, and a few *D. proxima*, which is more abundant later in the season, and frequents the lily pads. W. H. H.

Sphinx Kalmia. I have received from our Canadian veteran botanist, Mrs. C. P. Traill, of Lakefield, Ont., now in the 93rd year of her age, a fine specimen of the Lilac Sphinx, *Sphinx Kalmia*. Mrs. Traill also writes a long and interesting letter on the Holy Grass (Indian Sweet Hay,) *Hierochloa borealis*. The bed of this grass on the Experimental Farm is now a mat of flowering stems, and well worthy of a visit from our botanists. J. F.

EXCURSION No. III, TO BORTHWICK'S SPRINGS.

A Saturday afternoon Excursion will be held on the 8th July, to Borthwick's Springs, by special invitation of Mr. Borthwick. The Club vans will leave the Post Office at 2 p.m. *sharp*. The price of tickets has not been definitely fixed, but will probably be 25 cents.