

Stenobothrus curtispennis Scudd. When about to stridulate, these insects place themselves in a nearly horizontal position, with the head a little elevated; they then raise both hind legs together, the hind tibiae bent back snugly against the femora during the movement, and grate the thighs against the outer surface of the tegmina. The first one

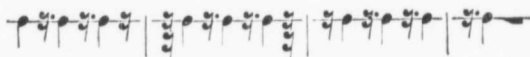


Fig. 52.—Note of *Stenobothrus curtispennis*.

or two movements are frequently noiseless or faint. In sunny weather the notes are produced at the rate of about six a second, are continued from one and a half to two and a half seconds, and when undisturbed are repeated with intermissions of from five to six seconds. When the sky is overcast, the movements are less rapid.

Gomphocerus sp. "The males of several species of this genus," says Riley, "produce a loud rattling or hissing sound, somewhat resembling the rattle of the large gray rattlesnake, by rubbing the inside of the thighs against the elytra." The reverse resemblance is indeed so close that I once stooped to search for the stridulator when I heard the warning of a rattlesnake, but fortunately discovered my error in time to withdraw precipitately. In an undetermined species discovered near Georgetown, Colorado, July 17, the note sounded like *tch*, repeated with exceeding rapidity, while the legs moved very quickly over a very short arc; the repetition was so rapid as to seem like one note, and it lasted from one to two and a half seconds; it was always fainter at the start and strongest just before the end.

Bootettix argentatus Brun. Bruner says this insect produces "a sharp stridulating sound," resembling "that produced by some of the *Stenobothri*."

Arcyptera gracilis Scudd. This is a very shy insect, but it stridulates more loudly than other *Tryxalinae*; its note can be heard at a distance of fifty feet. It usually makes four notes, but the number is sometimes greater. The first, a quarter of a second in

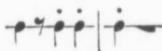


Fig. 53.—Note of *Arcyptera gracilis*.

length, is duller than the others, and is followed by a pause of a quarter of a second; the other notes are of the same length, but sharply sounded and follow each other rapidly.

Arphia sulphurea (Burm) Stal. This insect sometimes crackles when flying, but undoubtedly the power of doing so is under control.

Chimarocephala viridifasciata (DeGeer) Scudd. This insect usually produces a shuffling or rattling sound uniformly during the whole of its undeviating flight; but the power of making the sound is apparently under control, for it may be frightened into silence.

Encyrtolophus sordidus (Burm). Precisely the same may be said of this species as of the preceding.

Tropidolophus formosus (Say) Thom. This crested locust has a short, rather feeble straight flight of about three or four rods in length, the insect rising at once to a height of about six or eight feet from the ground and gradually settling, going with the wind, the distance of its flight being partly determined by the force of the same. During this flight it makes, as if it were not at all under control, a continuous and regular very subdued clicking sound, like the very rapid but somewhat muffled ticking of a watch.

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