

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXIII.

LONDON, JUNE, 1891.

No. 6.

NOTES ON SOME SPECIES OF NOCTUIDÆ DESCRIBED BY FRANCIS WALKER.

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In Vol. XXXII. and XXXIII. of the list of Lepidoptera Heterocera in the British Museum, Mr. Walker described some species from "West Canada, in the Rev. Mr. Bethune's collection." No records of specimens in the Museum are given, and the descriptions are of specimens apparently returned to the collector. On the chance of these specimens being still in existence I wrote Dr. Bethune, begging him for such assistance and information as was in his power to afford. He very kindly responded, saying, "I shall send you by mail to-morrow a box containing the few specimens that I have left that were named for me by the late F. Walker. The labels on them are mostly in his own hand-writing. When I came here in 1870 I had no room for my cabinet and was obliged to store it away in a dark place for some years. I was also so very hard worked, building up this school, etc., that I was unable even to look at my specimens. Consequently the *Dermestes* got in and destroyed a large number—especially those set low down—that were my first captures, and that Walker had named. Thus many of his types had perished. I do not think it matters very much, as the descriptions and identifications were often so unsatisfactory. After seeing what I send you, you might *abolish* all the others that are stated to be in my collection, because they are no longer in existence and cannot be identified."

The box came duly to hand, and as the specimens gave rise to some doubt, and I desired to fully establish the value of the labels, I again wrote Dr. Bethune, and he replied :

"I have been unable to find any more records regarding my 'Walker insects.' The *printed* labels and numbers on those I sent you were put on by myself—the *written* ones are Walker's. It is of course quite possible that some of them got transposed, as they have been changed from one cabinet to another, and had also to go through a severe disinfecting

NOTES.

A CORRECTION.

In Entom. Amer., Vol. VI., p. 173, in my description of *Euchaetes conspiciua* there is erroneously inserted: "This insect comes near *E. cada-verosa*, Gr.," etc., etc. This should read: "This insect comes near *E. abdominalis*, Gr. It is easily recognized by its conspicuous costal lines. *E. abdominalis* is a Florida insect, whilst this seems to be the Colorado representative." Entom. Amer. having ceased to appear, you will confer a favour on me by publishing this in your esteemed paper.

B. NEUMOEGEN.

NOTE ON AMMOPHILA ROBUSTA.

Sept. 20, 1890, I was collecting along the sunny side of a railroad embankment, where several species of digger wasps were plentiful. I stopped to watch the operations of a female of the above species. She was opening a filled-up hole, and soon pulled out a larva resembling that of the cabbage *Plusia*, nearly grown. She laid it three or four inches from the hole, and was standing over it, apparently resting, when another wasp of the same species alighted about six inches away, and, without an instant's hesitation, attacked No. 1, which had turned to face the assault. The fight which ensued was of the most spirited character. They "clinched" at the first onset, and remained in that position, their ventral surfaces in close contact, and the body of each closely embraced by the fore and middle legs of the other. One had grasped the neck of the other with her mandibles, and both were striving to use their stings, their abdomens being curved so as to bring these weapons into favorable position. These details I gathered one at a time, for they did not lie still by any means, but went rolling, scratching, and buzzing down the side of the embankment. On account of grass stubs (the vegetation had been burned off) their progress downward was not rapid, and after nearly a minute they were about two feet from the starting place. Neither seemed to have gained any advantage. At this point a third specimen arrived, and threw herself upon the other two. The fight was now more vigorous, if possible, than before. After a few seconds one released herself and flew away. A second soon followed suit. The third, apparently under great excitement, dashed wildly about, seeming to be looking for the larva before mentioned. From this I supposed her to be the one I first observed.

She passed within an inch of it several times, but seemed not to see it. After a minute or two one of the other combatants (as I suppose) alighted and resumed the fight, but soon left again. At this time, as I feared that the last one was about to leave also, I captured her. Whether the hole was of her own making in the first place, or belonged to one of the other contestants, or to none of them, I had no means of ascertaining; but there was evidently a bold attempt at robbery somewhere in the incident.

Brookings, So. Dak.

J. M. ALDRICH.

EXCURSION.

The entomologists of New York, Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia and localities near these cities are invited to attend the second annual field meeting to be held under the auspices of the Entomological Societies of the cities at Jamesburgh, N. J., on July 4th, next. Jamesburgh is on the Amboy Division of the Pennsylvania R.R., and may be reached from N. Y., *via* Monmouth Junction, at 7.20 a. m.; Newark, 7.50 a. m.; Philadelphia, Broad St., 6.50 a. m.; Camden, 7.00 a. m. Later trains leave N. Y. *via* Rahway and Philadelphia, on the Long Branch Division, but it is urged that the early train be used, as this will bring the party into Jamesburgh at the same time. All those desiring or expecting to attend will please notify one of the members of the committee, from whom also further information can be obtained. The notification is important, in order that proper arrangements may be made at Jamesburgh. Committee:—C. P. Machesney, 65 Broadway, N. Y.; Dr. Hy. Skinner, Amer. Ent. Soc., Logan Sq., Philadelphia; Prof. J. B. Smith, New Brunswick, N. J.; H. W. Wenzel, 1117 Moore St., Philadelphia, Pa.

A CANNIBAL CRICKET.

On September 11th, 1889, I observed, on a grassy slope, a short distance north of this city, a large ♀ black cricket, *Gryllus neglectus*, feeding on a recently killed ♂. I observed her carefully for a few minutes. There was a large wound on the side of the abdomen of the ♂, and she was greedily eating the semifluid and soft parts. She was not easily alarmed, being very intent on her meal; but, when I disturbed her with the handle of my net, she seized hold of her gentleman friend and lugged him away several inches and again resumed her meal. On the same slope, a few yards away, I observed another ♀ gnawing at the thorax of what most likely was a ♂.