

CIRCULAR TO ENTOMOLOGISTS.

THE Smithsonian Institution proposes to publish a series of descriptive monographs upon the different orders of North American Insects, to follow its series of catalogues of known species.

In accordance with this plan, Dr. J. L. Leconte, of Philadelphia, is engaged in preparing an elementary work on the *Coleoptera*, to embrace descriptions of families, and an analysis of the genera. Dr. Morris, of Baltimore, has nearly completed a compilation of all published descriptions of the Diurnal *Lepidoptera*, to follow his catalogue of the species, now nearly through the press.

Dr. Henry Hagen, of Königsberg, has undertaken a work on the *Neuroptera*; Dr. Loew, of Meseritz, assisted by Baron Osten-sacken, of St. Petersburg, is preparing one on the *Diptera*, and Mr. H. de Saussure, of Geneva, one on the *Hymenoptera*. Each of these will embrace descriptions of all the species before known, besides several hundred new ones.

The works on the *Diptera*, *Neuroptera*, and *Hymenoptera*, will probably be issued within the year, and as it is very desirable to have these as complete as possible on their first appearance, the Smithsonian Institution would respectfully request full series as can be furnished of specimens of these three orders, to be transmitted to the authors mentioned. They should, as far as practicable, be pinned, and inclosed in separate boxes, carefully packed, and endorsed with the names of the order, locality, and collector, so that they can be forwarded without opening to their destination.

The Institution will endeavor to secure, if desired, the safe return of any specimens that may be sent, although it would request that several duplicates of each species be supplied, in

order that a type series may be retained by the authors of the reports for themselves, and another for the Smithsonian Museum. If *uniques* are sent, particular instructions should be given as to the disposition to be made of them.

Specimens which can now be furnished should be sent at once to the Smithsonian Institution, well packed, through the Adams' Express Co., and a subsequent transmission be made in June, or early in July, so as to embrace the collections of the coming spring.

Contributors of materials will be supplied with any Smithsonian publications respecting the several orders, for which specimens have been furnished.

It is hoped that collectors will properly appreciate the importance of the object in view, and respond liberally to the foregoing request.

JOSEPH HENRY,
Secretary S. I.

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