

correspond to a structural variation, however difficult this might be to detect.

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MAY 16, 1899.

The 144th regular meeting was held at the residence of Mr. J. D. Patten, 3033 P street N.W. Vice-President Gill in the chair, and Messrs. Pollard, Schwarz, Currie, Patten, Caudell, Morris, Heidemann, Chapin, Ashmead, Vaughan, Dyar, and Howard also present. The Secretary called attention to the fact that the vacancy in the office of President of the Society, caused by the lamentable death of Mr. Hubbard, had not been filled, and on his nomination Dr. Gill was elected President.

Under the head of Short Notes and Exhibition of Specimens, Mr. Schwarz stated that he has had great difficulty in ascertaining any facts concerning the distribution of Lepidoptera in Arizona from published accounts, and asked whether exact localities were known for this State. Dr. Dyar replied that most if not all forms were labeled simply "Arizona," and that there was practically no knowledge of exact localities in this order for the State of Arizona.

Mr. Chapin stated that last year he collected *Anthocaris genutia* in some number, and that there were 16 males to 1 female. He wished to know whether this difference in proportion of the sexes is constant. Dr. Dyar stated that it is not constant, and that the instance mentioned was probably due to the fact that the specimens were collected at a time when the males had issued and the females had not yet issued in number. Dr. Gill jocularly remarked that probably the males were not eventually transformed into females, and went on to mention Myxine and its protandrous qualities as first appreciated by Dr. Nansen.

Mr. Heidemann exhibited a series of *Aradus niger* Stal., and submitted the following note on the habits of this species:

#### NOTE ON ARADUS (QUILNUS) NIGER STAL.

By OTTO HEIDEMANN.

Stal in his "Enumeratio Hemipterorum" III, p. 137, in which he arranges the family of Aradidæ, gives also a description of two species, one European, from the Island of Cyprus, and the other from N. America (*Carolina meridionalis*). These two differ from the other species of the genus *Aradus* in the shortness

of the rostrum, which hardly reaches the base of head. On account of this distinction Stal has placed them in a Subgenus, *Quilnus* Stal, and described the American species, ♂ and ♀ winged, as *Aradus* (Subg. *Quilnus*) *niger* Stal, Museum Stockholm. There is no record of the existence of this Aradid in any American collection, nor is it mentioned by collectors. Mr. Uhler, who has described most of our American species, writes me about this interesting insect, as follows :

“With regard to *Aradus niger* Stal, I find no specimen in my collection that suits the description in Enum. III, p. 139, 13. Of course, I would be delighted to get a ♂ and ♀ of this very singular species. I congratulate you most heartily upon discovering such an interesting insect.” During the winter month I collected it in the woods near Soldier’s Home, where there is quite a variety of timber, also many Pine trees. Two years ago a high wind storm had rooted out and broken down a great number of these trees. The Aradids live, as is generally known, mostly under bark, or in the crevices of the bark, where they lay their eggs and propagate. When the tree begins to decay it is easy to loosen the bark from the trunk, and the collector has a much better opportunity to find rare Aradids and large series of specimens, than by beating the branches of the tree. Collecting in this way, I have enlarged my collection of Aradids very considerably. I found large series of *Aradus similis* Say, *A. acutus* Say, *A. crenatus* Say, *A. inornatus* Uhl, an undescribed species and *A. niger* Stal, also series of the genera *Brachyrrhynchus granulatus* Say and *Neuroctenus simplex* Uhl. On one of my collecting trips I found by peeling off some pine trees an Aradus new to me. The insect would have escaped my notice if it had not been for the peculiar form of the last genital segment and flaps ; it was a male. The insect hides between the rubbish and decaying matter that accumulates under the loosening bark, and as the color of this species is very dark, it is only by scrutinous searching that one is able to find the insect. In examining this interesting Aradus I was struck by the shortness of the beak, and recollecting this a characteristic of the Subgenus *Quilnus* Stal, I compared the insect with Stal’s description of *Aradus* (*Quilnus*) *niger* Stal, which fits the same very well. Being eager to get as many as possible of it, I was fortunate enough to find more than a dozen in the winged state, ♂ and ♀. The female is a little larger in size than the male, and the wings are a trifle shorter. I have observed the winged ♂ in union with the unwinged ♀, and also both sexes in the unwinged state.

—Some discussion followed on the habits of Aradidæ. Mr. Ashmead stated that in Florida the second year after a tree is cut down the bark loosens and at this time Aradidæ are found under