Para, Brazil, with the statement that its bite is said by the natives to be fatal. He reviewed the superstitions in English-speaking countries of the dragon-fly. Mr. Schwarz suggested that perhaps the correspondent had sent the wrong insect—not the one to which the superstition is attached, and further stated that dragon-flies are not feared in Germany.

—Dr. Dyar exhibited a new species of the genus Lophyrus, reared from the larva collected by Mr. Pratt on Arborvitæ at Woodstock, Va. He presented for publication the following description of this species:

A NEW SAW-FLY.

By Harrison G. Dyar.

Lophyrus pratti, n. sp.

♀.—Antennæ 20-jointed. Black, shining, posterior angles of prothorax and pleura shaded with luteous; legs luteous, whitish on the joints and reddish on tarsi, coxæ at base and center of femora black; tibiæ and tarsal joints outwardly a little blackish. Lanceolate cell with straight cross-line; veins black. Length 5.5 mm.

Larva.—Thorax thickened, thoracic feet moderate, the head small in proportion, 1.6 mm. wide; abdomen tapering posteriorly, the anal segment small. Segments regularly 6-annulate, the spiracle on the second annulet, the segmental incisures practically indistinguishable from those of the annulets. Very minute points on the first, second, fourth, and sixth annulets and on the subventral folds, rather numerous. Whitish green, a shaded, but defined dorsal band, obscurely geminate; a similar band on the side just above the spiracles, broad, continuous, and single, both bands grayish black, unbroken. Feet pale, the abdominal ones on joints 6 to 13. Head round, shaded with leaden over the vertex, pale below; eye black. Differs from *abietis* Harr. in the pale head and thoracic feet, and apparently also in having only one stripe on the sides. (I have not seen *abietis* larva in nature.) Differs from the pine-feeding Lophyri in being without spots.

One ♀ bred by F. C. Pratt from larvæ on Arborvitæ* at Woodstock, Va., in June.

Note.—Since the above description was read, it has transpired that all the larvæ preserved by Mr. Pratt are probably in the ultimate stage, not in the last feeding stage as I supposed, hence the above comparisons with allied species are not valuable. I suspect that *L. pratti* is the same as the common Lophyrus

* The plant was determined by Mr. Pratt in the field. It is probably the *Thuja occidentalis.*

that occurs in abundance in the pine woods in the District of Columbia. This species has a larva exactly like that of *L. fabricii* (Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc., v, 200); but the flies have 20-jointed antennæ in the ♀ and 18-jointed in the ♂. Therefore I let the new name stand, pending an investigation of the exact value of larval characters as compared with the number of joints in the adult antenna.

Mr. Fernow suggested that the plant was probably red cedar and not Arborvitæ. No decision could be reached.

—Mr. Schwarz exhibited an Erotylid beetle, the genus of which is new to the United States. It was *Hæmatochiton elateroides* Gorham, and was collected by Mr. Hubbard in the Chiricahua Mountains at an elevation of 10,000 feet. It was previously only found at Ventanas, in the State of Durango, Mex., and in the vicinity of Mexico City.

—Mr. Pratt exhibited adults and larvæ of *Sciara fraterna*, and read the following note:

A NOTE ON A BRED SCIARA LARVA.

By F. C. Pratt.

On August 2, 1897, while at a small farming place near Poolesville, Montgomery Co., Md., my attention was attracted early in the morning by what appeared to be a snake crawling very slowly across the road, but to my surprise on closer examination I found that the snake was simply a mass of moving dipterous larvæ. These larvæ measured $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in length, and were about the thickness of a No. 5 Klaeger pin.

In the bright morning sunlight the color of the mass was of a steel blue. After obtaining a supply of specimens I watched the remainder. The space made by taking specimens from near the middle of the mass was soon filled up by the rear half of the larvæ, which hurried along and joined the front half, the latter meanwhile traversing not more than two inches before being overtaken. The entire length of this snake-like mass was 15 inches—$\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in depth. It tapered off at the posterior end, resembling the tail of a snake. The popular impression at Poolesville concerning these "snake worms" or "worm snakes," as they are locally termed, is that froth dropped from a horse's mouth will change to one of these "snake worms" before sundown. No further information was obtainable as to the ultimate destination of the larvæ, but they were no doubt bent on finding some suitable place to pupate. The larvæ obtained were placed in a jar containing damp sand August 3, where they immediately