

PROCEEDINGS.

APRIL 3, 1884.

Fourteen persons present. President Riley in the chair.

A letter from Professor Baird was read granting the use of the council-room of the U. S. National Museum for the meetings of the Society.

Mr. Schwarz exhibited specimens of *Quedius vernix* Lec. and *Q. ferrox* Lec. and called attention to a character, hitherto overlooked, of these two species, viz: the presence of an onychial seta, which is simple in the latter and double in the former species.

Dr. Barnard remarked on the hibernation of the Elm-tree Leaf-beetle (*Galeruca xanthomelæna*) on the grounds of the Agricultural Department, great numbers of the beetle having sought shelter in the crevices of telegraph poles near the infested trees. Under these circumstances he advocates the killing of the beetles in winter time.

Prof. Riley read a short communication by Mr. Fred Oates, of England, relating to an incident of the early life of the late Prof. Townend Glover. Mr. Dodge promised to give at some future meeting some other communications on the life of Prof. Glover.

Mr. Murdoch read a paper, of which the following is an abstract:

INSECT-COLLECTING AT POINT BARROW, ARCTIC ALASKA.—Much could not be done in the way of collecting insects, as the snow did not melt till the middle of June, and freezing began pretty permanently by Sept. 1st. Besides, the time of the party was occupied by other observations of all sorts, and insect-collecting could only be followed incidentally. The country is a tolerably level marshy plain, interspersed with innumerable lakes and small ponds, and scantily covered with grass and flowering plants. A complete beetle was found in the stomach of a newly-arrived Lapland Longspur on May 20th, and a hairy caterpillar was found crawling on the snow May 23d. Flies resembling the common house-fly were also seen crawling on the snow at the same date. Dipterous larvæ were also very

abundant in the pools early in June, and the gnats left the pupa stage and rose from the surface of the pools in the middle of June. A warm calm day always brought out considerable swarms of mosquitoes, but the summers of both 1882 and 1883 were cold and the mosquitoes were more troublesome. Beetles were collected crawling on the dry sunny spots, and the pools in early summer swarmed with small black *Podurids* resembling grains of gunpowder. Peculiar brown carrion-flies, resembling bird-parasites, were very numerous around the dead bodies at the native cemetery. Insects were seldom seen flying, but were occasionally to be met with along the sunny bank of one lagoon, especially crane-flies, and a few large humble-bees. A few moths were hatched from cocoons picked up on the tundra, but only one was seen flying in the two seasons we were at the station.

In connection with Mr. Murdoch's communication, Dr. Barnard remarked on the food of *Poduridæ* which he had observed feeding on the remains of dead clams in Louisiana; Dr. Riley on an interesting, not yet determined, Dipteron found around the Esquimaux burying-grounds by Mr. Murdoch; Mr. Schwarz on the Coleoptera, and Mr. Marx on the spiders collected by Mr. Murdoch.

Mr. Howard read a communication on the so-called Mistaken Parasite, *Platygaster error* Fitch. He showed how this species had been connected with a series of mistakes from the time of its original description, mainly from the fact that the characters given by Fitch were not specific. He called attention to the improbability of the reported observations of Herrick* and Cook on the oviposition of this species in the eggs of *Cecidomyia destructor*, and, in closing, exhibited specimens of an allied species of the genus *Telenomus* bred from eggs of *Chrysopa*.

Mr. Schwarz read a paper on the insect fauna of the District of Columbia. He calls attention to the complexity of the faunal regions of North America as compared with the simplicity of the palearctic fauna. As to the fauna of the Atlantic slope, the number of subdivisions formerly adopted have been gradually reduced to three—the boreal fauna, that of the Northern and that of the Southern States. The fauna of the District comes, of course, very close to the dividing zone between the two last-mentioned regions, but must, in his opinion, still be attributed to the Southern fauna. The topographical features of the District are exceptionally favorable for harboring a very rich insect fauna, and every one who has paid any attention to the collecting of insects in the vicinity of