

*Tabanus mexicanus* and *T. psammophilus*, as observed by him in Florida. The former species flies only shortly after sunrise and shortly before sunset, but attacks warm-blooded animals; the latter is a strictly maritime species, occurring only on the open beach of southeastern Florida, and probably never attacks warm-blooded animals.

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1886.

Five persons present. Vice-President Marx in the chair.

Mr. Schwarz, referring to remarks made by him at the last meeting, stated that during the months of July and August he had handled many living specimens of *Harpalus caliginosus* but without being able to perceive any stridulation; and further, that the flattening in the palpi in male of *Hydrophilus ovatus* is not an abnormal character, but occurs in all males of this species.

Mr. Lugger, referring to the account of the swarm of Cicadas observed at Fortress Monroe, Va., on June 17th, said that he had visited that locality on July 5th, and captured a specimen of *Cicada pruinosus*. Mr. Schwarz said that on July 5th he heard the first *Cicada pruinosus* at Washington.

Mr. Smith read a paper on the peculiar odor emitted by *Dynastes tityus*. This is well known to entomologists, but during the present season the species has developed into a pest. In two States—Virginia and Tennessee—they have been locally so abundant as to saturate the air with the penetrating stench. The local boards of health, especially that of Memphis, Tenn., disinfected all sorts of foul and suspected localities without success, and only by accident was the true source of the smell discovered. It must have required many thousands of specimens to have produced such an effect, and it is an interesting instance of a new way in which insects can render life burdensome to man.\*

In discussing this communication Mr. Lugger said that the favorite food-plant of the *Dynastes* is the Water Ash (*Fraxinus sambucifolia*), which is quite common in the vicinity of Mem-

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\* See the Article, "Beetles as a nuisance," by J. B. Smith, in *Popular Science Monthly*, xxx, pp. 409-410.

phis. Mr. Schwarz said that in this and other allied genera of Scarabæidæ the odor is emitted by the imago as well as by the pupa, whereas the larva is not, or at least much less, odoriferous.

Mr. Lugger said that even in the phyllophagous Scarabæidæ, *e. g.*, the genus *Lachnosterna*, the imagos emitted a faint, though not unpleasant, odor. Mr. Smith added that also in the coprophagous genera, especially *Canthon*, the odor of the imago is quite strong and unpleasant.

Mr. Schwarz exhibited the following species of insects which are new to the fauna of the District of Columbia: 1. *Merope tuber* of the Neuropterous family *Panorpidæ*. One specimen, a male, was found on August 22d under a stone in the woods on a dry hillside near Rock Creek. Upon being disturbed the specimen ran off rapidly, its fore wings vibrating in the manner seen in many Noctuids, the hind wings, at the same time, covering the abdomen excepting the forceps. Mr. Schwarz reviewed the history of this remarkable insect, of which only a few specimens are known to be in collections. Of its earlier stages nothing is known, and of its habits we have only a short note by Dr. Fitch in his Fourteenth Report, stating that the two specimens he captured were attracted by the light in his house. 2. *Chatocælus setosus* of the Coleopterous family *Malachiidæ*, found on August 28th on dead oak twigs near Bladensburgh. The only other known locality for this species is Columbus, Tex., where it occurred on old grape vines in the darkest portions of the bottom woods. The male appears to be extremely rare; the female is among our most larviform Coleoptera, and, for this reason, liable to be overlooked by collectors.

Mr. Smith described a peculiar brush of hair at the base of the abdomen in *Schinia marginata* (family *Noctuidæ*). It is a pencil of fine twisted strands set into a cup-shaped membrane, and usually concealed in a groove between the dorsal and ventral parts of the basal two segments of the abdomen. When first removed from this groove, the same smell of laudanum, so noticeable in *Leucarctia acraea*, is also observable here. Spread out, a considerable brush of hair is presented. The insect has the power of voluntarily spreading out this tuft, and probably, also, of again withdrawing and folding it into place.

Mr. Schwarz exhibited samples of the bark of Red Oak, show-