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NOTES ON NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIAN COLEOPTERA.

BY MRS. W. W. HIPPISEY,

Terrace, B. C.

Terrace is a small town situated on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in the fertile valleys known as Lakelse and Kitsumgalum, ninety-five miles east of the terminal at Prince Rupert and 500 miles northeast of Vancouver. The two valleys are separated by the Skeena River, that called Lakelse lying to the south and Kitsumgalum to the north; taken together they number some 200,000 acres, Lakelse being the larger of the two. The soil is varied, a stiff clay on the flats, sandy by the river and gravelly on two large plateaus. The district is heavily timbered with spruce, hemlock, cedar and cottonwood, some yellow pine and yellow birch, and a sprinkling of balsam fir; some of the older clearings are overgrown with poplar and birch saplings, alder, elder, and willow.

Most of the insects collected during the past two years have been taken on or near our ranch "West Lodge," some three and one-half miles southwest of Terrace as the crow flies, or six miles by the road. Most of this material has been forwarded to Mr. C. A. Frost of Framingham, Mass., to whom I am indebted for the identification of the species mentioned in the following notes. It is hoped that they may prove to be of some slight interest and value, coming as they do from a country so far north and one almost entomologically unknown.

Elaphrus riparius Linn. In two years collecting on the south side of the Skeena River, this handsome insect has only been taken in two places; the first time on the margin of a small pool on a flat some 50 yards distant from a spring creek, where they were driven from cover by treading about on clumps of a fine sedge while searching for water beetles, about the first week in June, 1920. Ten days or so later they were found in some numbers on a part of the garden, behind the house, that had been flooded throughout the spring by the water from a small swamp. This stagnant water supported a thick growth of algae and when the water failed this algae with myriads of tadpoles formed an evil-smelling scum that dried in flakes, beneath which were found the *Elaphrus*. Both garden and pool were in the full glare of the sun.

From comparison with the types in the LeConte collection, I am informed that many specimens of this series agree with *punctatissimus* Lec. while others are more like *similis* Lec. in shape. Among these taken near the garden were a few that were of a red-bronze tint, instead of the usual green; these specimens are also slimmer with narrower thorax and of a shining brassy color beneath, less green on the femora, metasternum smooth and shining, ventral segments less hairy, punctation beneath less deeply impressed and more scattered, especially toward the apex. As this insect somewhat resembles *pallipes* Horn, it may be the form described from B. C. as *purpurans* by J. F. Hausen (Can. Record of Sci. IV, 1891, p. 251) and listed as a variety of *pallipes*, but the Terrace specimens do not have the legs paler than in *riparius*, while the elytral apices are not narrowed, nor is the punctation of the propleura and sides of abdomen as sparse as in *pallipes*.

Elaphrus clairvillei Kirby. Two specimens of this species were taken

about the same time, and they are identical with the eastern specimens of this species.

***Elaphrus clairvillei frosti* new var.**

This very pretty insect differs from Kirby's *clairvillei* in its narrower thorax with median and sub-apical impressions more deeply indented, and with the discal elevations more sparsely and finely punctate, while the under surface is less coarsely punctate and the side sutures less sinuate; the front of the head is narrower and the eyes proportionately larger; elytra not so shining, with the punctation very fine, scattered, and not in wide rows between the discal foveae as in *clairvillei*; the color of the entire upper surface is deep, rather dull, olivaceous green (almost exactly as in *olivaceus* Lec.) with smaller purplish foveae; under surface a lighter shade of green; tibiae and femora colored much as in *clairvillei*, with the tarsal joints slightly darker. The specimen at hand measures 8 mm. while a specimen of *clairvillei* is slightly over 9 mm., and is of a much more robust form.

This strikingly distinct form, which seems almost to merit a higher standing than a mere variety, is dedicated to Mr. C. A. Frost in recognition of his great assistance to the writer. The type is in his collection.

Pterostichus herculaneus Mann. This species is one of the first beetles found in the spring, when it is present in small numbers, perhaps two or three at a time, beneath the loose bark of cottonwood logs and stumps, and under the bark of partially decayed hemlock and yellow birch. In autumn their habits are slightly different, as they then seek shelter for the winter in powdery dry stumps, dry rotten logs (hemlock or poplar preferred), at the bases of moss-covered cottonwood stumps, or under a sunken mossy log. They occur at times with *Iphthimus opacus* in decaying logs or beneath loose bark. The species is not very plentiful and one could perhaps take a dozen in a day by diligent search.

Hydrobius scabrosus Horn. A few specimens of this beetle were taken in May, 1920, from beneath moss growing at the edges of a rapidly flowing creek. The temperature of the water is about 45 degrees Fahr. both in summer and winter. The moss is partially submerged and grows on sunken logs, branches and twigs that have fallen into the water. The beetles are not seen until the moss is pulled off and laid on the bank upside down, when they commence to crawl about. On March 29, 1921 (since writing the above note) while there was still two feet of snow on the ground, four more specimens were taken from this moss after being gathered in the creek and carried to the house.

Eros simplicipes Mann. About half a dozen of this pretty Lycid were taken on the wing, the last of May, 1920. The flight is weak and wavering, about six feet off the ground, and they are easily captured by hand. They often light on the dress or hand of the would-be captor as they dance about in sunny glades among the green timber on still warm days. The red of the elytra has a distinct orange tint quite noticeable when compared with examples of *hamata* or *aurora*. The quadrate impressions of the elytral intervals are very even, the costae fine; the tibiae and femora are red, the tarsi black as are the antennae, though the head and first joint of the antennae have a reddish tinge. Length

of male 12 mm. My correspondent writes me that these specimens are identical with those so named in the LeConte collection.

Eros nigripes Schæffer. With the preceding species were taken five specimens having the legs, antennae, head and under parts black throughout; antennae broader and heavier; color of elytra deep scarlet, with the quadrate impressions of the intervals irregular and uneven in size, costae much coarser and the form broader than in *simplicipes*. Length 9 to 10 mm. There is one specimen of this species in the LeConte collection at Cambridge, Mass., without name. A specimen of this has recently been sent to Mr. Charles Schæffer of the Brooklyn Museum who states that he cannot see that it differs from his *nigripes* which was described from Minn. (Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc. Vol. XIX, 1911.) except in the slightly weaker thoracic costae.

Eros hamata Mann. Four specimens of this handsome species were taken in 1920, usually while resting on the trunk of a green spruce. The quadrate impressions in this species are thickly covered with short appressed hairs of the same color as the elytra and thorax; the legs are red and the tarsi piceous; the head, first antennal joint and metasternum dull red; ventral segments black except the last which is brownish yellow. Length 15 mm. The specimens correspond with those named as above in the LeConte collection.

Lucidota (Ellyschnia) corrusca Linn. This is extremely common here all the season, being one of the first insects to appear after the snow melts, and one of the last to go in the autumn. It is very partial to the flowers of the pearly everlasting.

Silis spinigera variety *munita* Lec. One specimen was taken in June, 1920, on the flowers of the red osier willow or dogwood.

Silis pallida Mann. Three specimens taken; two flying about fire-weed blossoms and one resting on a thimbleberry leaf, June to July, 1920.

Calopus angustus Lec. Seven specimens of this rare Oedemerid were taken in the early part of the spring of 1920, five being taken before all the snow had melted. These were all found beneath the loosened bark on decaying pine stumps from which they seemed to have recently emerged as fresh holes were noticed in each case close to the swell of the roots. A week or so later one was found drowned in a tub of rain water by the door early in the morning. It seems probable that its early appearance in spring together with the indications that it flies at night, may account for its rarity in collections. The seventh specimen was taken from the water tank of a gasoline engine.

Omosita discoidea Fab. Two fragments of the knuckle-end of a beef shank yielded upwards of one hundred of these little insects during a space of about three weeks at the end of May and beginning of June, 1920. They crawl into the fine bony net-work and can scarcely be seen until breathed upon. When the bone is sharply tapped on a board or table they fall out. Only bones having this net-work of fibre seem to attract them. In this species the yellow markings of the elytra are sub-basal to median instead of apical as in *O. colon*. *Discoidea* also has scattered flecks of yellow toward the elytral apices.

Leptura aspera parkeri new var.

Form longer and slimmer, elytra reddish-testaceous (of a shade similar to that of some of the redder forms of *Brachyleptura rubrica* Say) with the punctation much finer and the asperities not so pronounced, tips rounded and margined; the head is more sulcate with finer punctation, with the first four joints of the antennae more shining, not so coarsely punctate or hairy as in the black form, fourth joint two-thirds the length of the third and the two together but slightly longer than the fifth. Two of the abdominal segments have the apical margins glabrous with a cross band of yellow-brown, last segment brown with a fringe of yellow hairs. Length 14 mm. Width 3 mm.

This form has been given the varietal name *parkeri* in honor of the author's father whose keen interest in the insect fauna of this region has been a great encouragement to the writer. The type has been placed in the collection of Mr. C. A. Frost of Framingham, Mass.

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE GENUS PLATYPREPPIA (LEPIDOPTERA)

BY J. MCDUNNOUGH,

Entomological Branch, Ottawa.

It had been my intention to consider the matter of the family position of the genus *Platyrepia* closed with the publication of Dr. Dyar's reply (Can. Ent. LIV, 20) to my previous statements (Can. Ent. LIII, 167). Unfortunately however an 'Author's note,' inserted by Dr. Dyar in the page proofs of his article and set up by the printer without consultation of the editor, calls for a reply as the statement contained therein is erroneous. Dr. Dyar claims in this note that, whereas in *Platyrepia* veins 7 and 8 of secondaries are separated at the base, in *Arctia* they are united, and he would use this apparently as a character to differentiate the two families Arctiidae and Hypsidae. It might be pointed out in passing that if this character should be used, then *Apantesis* and numerous other Arctiid genera would fall into the latter family. However, as a matter of fact, vein 7 in *Arctia* does not coalesce with 8 to the extreme base of the wing; it branches off from 8 about 2 mm. from the base in exactly the same manner as is found in *Platyrepia*; in both genera it is much reduced in size as compared with 8, which is greatly swollen at the base, and this reduction of size has been carried almost to obsolescence in some specimens of *Arctia caia*; an examination of a series of this species, especially large females, clearly shows however the basal separation of the two veins and I have specimens before me as well marked in this respect as any of *Platyrepia guttata*.

While I have no objection to the transference of *Platyrepia* to the Hypsidae if sufficient proof of the soundness of this transfer can be given, I do claim that up to the present neither Sir Geo. Hampson nor Dr. Dyar has given us satisfactory reasons for making such a change.