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Some New Species of Halictus

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A NORTH AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGISTS' UNION.*

BY HENRY H. LYMAN, M. A., MONTREAL.

When seven years ago I had the honour of occupying the Presidential chair of this Society, I ventured in my annual address, as some of you will doubtless remember, to suggest the formation of a North American Entomologists' Union on similar lines to those on which the American Ornithologists' Union has been so successfully carried on; and in my second address the following year I again returned to the subject. I hoped that the idea would be taken up by some of the leading entomologists of the continent, but though the matter has been, I believe, the subject of correspondence among a number of entomologists, nothing of a tangible nature has, apparently, resulted.

Last year when in New York I was told that a move had been made, and that I would soon receive a circular about it, but on a subsequent visit this year I was told that owing to certain local jealousies the matter had been, at least temporarily, abandoned.

It therefore appears to me opportune, as the original proposer of the scheme, to again bring it before our Society, and through it before the entomologists of the continent.

One thing which caused my thoughts to be again turned to this subject was the reading of the very admirable article on Entomological Literature by Mr. C. F. Baker, in the October number of "Entomological News." If all our writers would use the same restrained and courteous manner there would be no excuse for bickering and ill feeling among entomologists. I entirely agree with Mr. Baker that having so many publications devoted to general entomology, so that any student in any branch has to refer to all of them, is a great evil and a hindrance to the progress of original research in special lines; but while it is easy to see the evil, I fail to see how it can be remedied except by the co-operation of entomologists in a Union such as I have suggested.

*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, Guelph, Oct. 19, 1905.

I therefore desire to put before you very briefly some ideas which have occurred to me on this subject, in the hope that they may prove of interest.

In the first place full membership must be limited, as in the case of the Royal Society of Canada, in order to make it a mark of distinction, and so a coveted reward for eminence. But how is the selection to be made without probable injustice to some and the certain wounding of the susceptibilities of many?

Do not attempt it. Begin with Associate Members only, which all North American entomologists should be invited to become, and when you have secured a goodly number, say not less than one hundred, have a ballot by mail for a certain number of full members, no one to be chosen as such unless he receives at least a majority of all the votes cast.

Fix a limit to the full membership, but do not try to fill the limit at once; let us feel our way and grow gradually, but once the limit has been reached do not elect any more full members, except to fill vacancies which may occur.

It would be well to set a moderate limit at first, as it would always be possible to vote to enlarge the limit should it be found too restricted, but it would be a very difficult matter to reduce the membership should it be found to have been made too large in the first instance.

On the other hand, it should not be made too small, lest the cry of "clique" be raised against it.

The happy mean should be aimed at in order that no one who had not attained to some eminence should be a full member, so that membership would be considered an honour.

I would also suggest having a limited number of honorary memberships to be voted to men of eminence in the science, but who through age or infirmity were no longer able to continue active scientific work.

No question of amateur or professional should enter into the matter. An amateur who attains to eminence in the science is, I claim, more entitled to honour than a man to whom it is a profession by which he earns his living.

When a sufficient number of members have been elected, they should come together in an Annual Meeting and organize the Union, electing the first officers, and at this point great care should be taken to secure officers who would be universally acceptable.

The initial stage of every undertaking is often the most critical, and in this case it is most important that there should be no appearance of the Union being especially identified with any one locality, but that all sections of the continent should be fairly represented.

More than that, however, is needed in order to render the scheme a success, and one of the things of most vital importance is a comparatively full attendance of members at the annual meetings or conventions. Failure to attend three consecutive annual meetings should be considered to constitute resignation of membership, and the seat of such member should be declared vacant and filled by election from among the Associate Members.

I have not yet touched upon the financial side of the question, although that is very important. Unfortunately, some entomologists of eminence are not very liberally paid, and have little or no private means, and yet unless the majority of members attended the annual meetings the Union would prove a failure. Most of the entomologists who would be members are, I suppose, in official positions, and we might reasonably expect that at least a portion of their expenses in attending the meetings would be borne by the institutions with which they are connected.

Whether it would be possible to secure some sort of endowment from one of the multi-millionaires of the continent I do not know, but it might be worth attempting.

I have not in this paper made any reference to the matters with which such a Union would deal. Some of these I suggested in my two presidential addresses, and many others will readily occur to any one giving the subject the slightest thought.

The great thing is to secure co-operation among the principal workers in the science, and to eliminate all things which tend to dissension and discord. If I could be of any assistance in the organization of such a Union, I should be happy to do all I could.

DR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, C. M. G.

His many friends in Canada and elsewhere will join with us in offering very hearty congratulations to Dr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS upon the distinguished honour that he has received from our gracious Sovereign KING EDWARD, in being made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. This honour is conferred only upon those who have rendered eminent service to the Empire in some capacity or other. Few men assuredly have done more for Canada than the Director of the Experimental Farms of the Dominion in advancing and improving agriculture and fruit-growing in all their departments throughout the length and breadth of the land, and especially in the Northwest Provinces. We trust that Dr. Saunders will be preserved in health and strength for the performance of his varied and arduous labours for many a year to come.

SOME NEW SPECIES OF HALICTUS.

BY J. C. CRAWFORD, DALLAS, TEXAS.

In the following descriptions the term sericeous or sericeously roughened is applied to the silky lustre induced by the minute striation or roughening of the surface.

Halictus Fedorensis, n. sp., ♀.—Black, head and thorax closely, finely punctate, clothed with rather abundant whitish pubescence; facial quadrangle longer than broad; clypeus shiny, sparsely punctured; antennæ obscurely ferruginous beneath toward apex; mesothorax sericeously roughened; median and parapsidal grooves obscure; base of metathorax sericeously roughened, finely striate, the striæ not reaching apex medially; wings hyaline, nervures and stigma light testaceous; legs obscurely ferruginous, hind inner spur with four very oblique teeth; abdomen sparsely pubescent, base of segments two and three with lateral hair patches; segments closely, finely punctate; broad apical margins testaceous.

Length, 7 mm.

Two specimens from Fedor, Texas, June 1, 1898; Nov. 11, 1897. Rev. G. Birkmann collector.

In appearance most like *arcuatus*, *aberrans*, *galpinsiae*, but differs from all of them by the closely-punctate first abdominal segment.

Halictus Robertsoni, n. sp., ♀.—Black, clothed with white pubescence, and appearing powdery; form narrow; head and thorax very closely, finely punctured, clypeus sparsely so; facial quadrangle longer than broad; flagellum obscurely ferruginous beneath; mesothorax sericeously roughened; disc of scutellum almost impunctate; truncation of metathorax heart-shaped, surrounded by a salient rim; from the upper lateral edges of this carina salient carinas run forward, making a triangular enclosure on the base of the metathorax; enclosure very shiny, rather coarsely irregularly rugose; all of metathorax except enclosure covered with close pubescence; tegulae large, dark, with a light centre; wings smoky, nervures and stigma dark brown; legs black, hind inner spur with about six teeth, the basal three long; abdomen shiny, with short, rather thin whitish pubescence; segments, except apical margins, closely, finely punctured; bases of segments two to four with bands of white appressed pubescence, showing only as lateral hair patches if the abdomen is contracted.

Length, about 7 mm.

Type, Victoria, Texas, Febr. 24, 1904. Crawford collector.

January, 1906.

This det. by Pierce as *Sinclius asper*

12044
w.s.v.m.

close to angusticollis
Type
12039
w.s.v.m.

Most closely related to *nelumbonis* in the appearance of the metathorax, but is easily separated from that species by the much finer punctuation of the mesothorax.

Dedicated to Mr. Charles Robertson, whose excellent descriptions and notes on Illinois bees are of great value.

Halictus Birkmanni, n. sp., ♀.—Black, shiny, clothed with short, glittering, white pubescence; facial quadrangle about square; face above antennæ with close but well-separated fine punctures; clypeus and mandibles ferruginous; antennæ beneath, including scape, testaceous-ferruginous, above dusky ferruginous; mesothorax sericeously roughened, finely, sparsely punctured; metathorax finely irregularly rugulose, not reaching apex, behind this roughened, as are the pleura; tegulæ, tubercles and legs testaceous; hind inner spur with five long teeth; wings dusky, nervures and stigma dark brown; abdomen shiny, apical margins of segments narrowly testaceous; segment one impunctate, bases of others closely finely punctured, becoming impunctate apically, the depressed apical margins of segments transversely striatulate; bases of segments two and three with white lateral hair patches.

Length, 5 mm.

Fedor, Texas, March 24, 1902. Rev. G. Birkmann collector.

Easily distinguished from all the other black species by the testaceous legs.

This species is dedicated to the Rev. Mr. Birkmann, from whom it was received.

Halictus lineatulus, n. sp., ♀.—Head and thorax dark green or blue-green; face broad, above antennæ closely, deeply punctate, below antennæ, including clypeus, very sparsely and more coarsely so; clypeus anteriorly purple, supra-clypeal area coarsely lineolate; antennæ obscurely ferruginous beneath; cheeks very ample; mesothorax shiny, coarsely lineolate, lineolation very apparent, with scattered setigerous punctures; median groove well impressed, parapsidal grooves distinct; scutellum closely punctate, punctures irregular in size, with two smooth shiny spots on the disc; base of metathorax not enclosed, with strong, coarse, irregular longitudinal striæ reaching apex only laterally; medially not quite reaching apex, and the intervening space roughened; mesopleura coarsely roughened, metapleura finely so; truncation granulose, not surrounded by a salient rim; wings hyaline, nervures honey-colour, stigma at times more brownish; tegulæ shiny dark brown; legs brown, hind inner spur with

Burroughs
12038
W.S.V.M.

about four long teeth; abdomen green, disc of first segment occasionally showing brownish; apical margins of segments broadly testaceous; whole abdomen, except discs of 1 and 2, covered with close appressed brownish-white pubescence; segment 1 practically impunctate, 2 with base rather closely, finely punctate; lateral margins and venter with long brownish-white hairs; venter brownish-testaceous.

Length, 6-7 mm.

Ten specimens, Ag. Coll., Mich., Oct. 4-11, 1893 (R. H. Wolcott).

Most closely related to *zephyrus*, Sm., but differs in its larger size, stronger, more numerous rugæ of metathorax, more coarse apparent lineolation of mesothorax, much sparser punctuation of mesothorax, lighter nervures, dark tibiæ (not testaceous at base and apex), abdomen more densely pubescent and covering more of surface (confined to lateral patches on 2 and 3 in *zephyrus*).

Halictus Pecosensis, n. sp., ♀.—Black, head and thorax clothed with rather abundant griseous pubescence; facial quadrangle wider than long; clypeus shiny, with large scattered punctures; face sericeously roughened with scattered very shallow oblique punctures below antennæ, above antennæ becoming closely, finely punctate only in front of ocelli, but not reaching orbital margins; antennæ entirely dark; mesothorax sericeous, closely, rather coarsely punctate; median and parapsidal grooves obscure; base of metathorax with close, coarse, irregular striæ, not enclosed; truncation not entirely surrounded by a salient rim; legs black, hind inner spur with three or four oblique almost obsolete serrations; tegulæ dark, with a light centre; wings subhyaline, nervures and stigma testaceous; abdomen shiny, finely and sparsely punctate, segment one more sparsely so; bases of segments two and three with large lateral hair patches almost connected medially on three.

Length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Pecos, N. M., 7,200 feet, at flowers of *Holodiscus australis*, July 21. W. P. Cockerell collector.

This species comes near the *pectoralis* group, but differs from any of them in the much wider face; it also differs from *pectoralis* by its punctate first segment, hair patches on segments two and three, striæ of metathorax much finer; from *pectoraloides* by the obsolete parapsidal grooves, first segment punctate; from *pseudopectoralis* by the first segment punctate, closer punctures of mesothorax and the lighter nervures and stigma.

Type
12043
W.S.V.M.

GUELPH BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

The third regular meeting of the Guelph Branch was held in the Agricultural College on Wednesday evening, November 15th, 1905, with 20 members and 38 visitors in attendance.

Mr. E. J. Zavitz discussed the "Long-Horned Borers" (Cerambycidae), pointing out some of the more salient characters of the family, describing habits, methods of collecting, etc. Specimens of the work of Cerambycid larvæ in solid living wood were shown. His remarks were also supplemented by exhibiting the 94 species represented in his cabinet, nearly all of which were taken at Ridgeway, in Welland County, Ontario.

Mr. Douglas Weir presented notes on various species of insect-galls, and showed slides made from his own photographs, illustrating about 20 species collected during the autumn in the vicinity of Guelph.

A brief review of Kellogg's "American Insects" was given by Mr. Sherman.

Mr. C. Cæsar discussed "Grasshoppers," with special reference to life-history and economy of the destructive species, natural enemies, remedial measures, etc.

Brief discussion followed each of these papers.

The fourth regular meeting was held in the Agricultural College on Wednesday evening, November 29th, 1905, with 21 members and 13 visitors in attendance.

Mr. B. Barlow discussed "Mosquitoes," giving his experiences in collecting, breeding and methods of eradication. Specimens of egg masses and larvæ were exhibited, and a lively discussion followed. Mr. T. D. Jarvis gave a few notes on the Pitcher-plant Mosquito. About the middle of November the larva of this mosquito was taken from the leaves of the Pitcher-plant in the Arkell swamp, a few miles from Guelph. The larvæ were living in the solid ice of the "pitcher," and when the ice melted they became quite active.

A brief review of the current literature was given by Prof. Sherman. Bulletins from Ohio, Washington, Maryland, and Central Experimental Farm, were discussed.

Mr. C. R. Klinck discussed granary insects. He made collections from granaries and mills around Guelph, and presented a large collection of granary pests in different stages of development. Some of the common species found were: Rice weevil, Granary weevil, Saw-toothed granary weevil, Bean weevil, Pea weevil, Cow-pea weevil, Meal worms, Angoumois grain moth, Indian meal moth, Indian snout moth and flour mite.

T. D. JARVIS, Secretary.

HALTICA RUFA, ILL., AT MOUNT ST. HILAIRE, QUE.

I was out collecting at Mount St. Hilaire, Que., on the 27th June, 1905. After a long and tiresome walk through the woods, I came to a small marshy piece of land in which several small willows were growing. I immediately went to these bushes, expecting to get some Chrysomelidæ, in which I was particularly interested. I shook several of the trees over my net, and then examined what had fallen into it. My efforts were greatly rewarded by the finding of one specimen of a reddish Chrysomelid; which I at once placed in the Halticini group. I had never seen it in any of my outings, and thought it was a good species. I brought my capture to Mr. Stevenson's attention, who was with me that day, and he made a good search for another specimen. I do not know whether he got some or not, but for my part I managed to get another specimen after hard labour.

When I returned home I mounted them on card points, with exact data, and placed them in a special box, for future study.

It was only a month later that I succeeded in determining them. I first consulted Mr. Wickham's descriptions of the Chrysomelidæ of Ontario and Quebec, in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. XXIX. A rapid glance showed me that my insect was not described here, so I looked up Dr. Horn's Synopsis of the Halticini of North America, published 1889. It did not take me long to find that the name of my little beast was *Haltica rufa*, Ill., an odd-looking *Haltica* indeed, and Dr. Horn is certainly right in stating the following remarks in reference to it: "This insect seems to have some trouble in finding a permanent generic resting place. Following the 'Catalogus,' it is a *Disonycha*, while a species completely congeneric (and I think also specifically identical) has been described in the 'Biologia' as *Lactica scutellaris*. That it cannot be referred to *Lactica* is evident from the character of the basal impression of the thorax, and the choice is plainly between *Disonycha* and *Haltica*. The latter genus has been chosen because there is a well-marked ante-basal depression of the thorax, which is, however, said to occur in *Disonycha*, but is not present in any of our species."

Dr. Horn gives to this insect a wide range of distribution, being from Massachusetts to Illinois, Florida and Texas, extending through Mexico to South America. I do not think it was ever known to be found in Canada, and I thought, therefore, it would be of general interest to record its capture here.

G. CHAGNON, Montreal.