

2-1-1893

Notes on the Entomology of Colorado.—II.

T. D. A. Cockerell
New Mexico Agricultural College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/bee_lab_ca



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cockerell, T. D. A., "Notes on the Entomology of Colorado.—II." (1893). Ca. Paper 187.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/bee_lab_ca/187

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Bee Lab at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ca by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.



ckll., 1893

no fees

Cockerell, T. D. A.

W. E. Haeger

1893.

furnished at the tip with a distinct claw, which is an unusual character in this series, and they lack entirely the epiphysis, which is an all but universal character in the Macroheterocera, and this serves to isolate the family from all the other related Bombyces examined by me. There are other differences, in thoracic structure and elsewhere, which this is scarcely the place to describe, but enough has been shown to make it desirable that Mr. Dyar's sentence on p. 35 of this volume: "The genera *Pseudohazis* and *Hemileuca* undoubtedly belong to the Saturniidae," should be regarded as an expression of opinion and not as a statement of fact. The use of the term "undoubtedly" is unfortunate in any case, for we really know too little absolutely to make any such definite assertions. I am aware that it would not be difficult to find equally positive assertions made by myself in times past, when I thought I knew very much more than I do now; at that time no one else seems to have had any definite information concerning the wealth of knowledge that we did not possess. It is certain that I did not then realize that all that was printed in the books could not be implicitly relied upon.

NOTE.—Some unfortunate typographical errors crept into the January instalment of this paper; in one case entirely reversing my intended statement. On p. 5, line 3, omit *but* between *certain* and *that*; line 16, after *genus* insert *which*; line 25, *lengthily* insert *often*.

—o—

NOTES ON THE ENTOMOLOGY OF COLORADO.—II.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL, Kingston, Jamaica.

DELTA.

The northern border of the county is elevated, but rapidly descending as one goes southward, the zones of vegetation recorded on p. 202 are grassed, and the Gunnison River is reached at quite a low level. I crossed the county in September and October, from the Grand Mesa down the valley of Surface Creek and across the plain to Montrose. We camped for a few days on Surface Creek at about 8,500 feet altitude, where the zones of Spruce and Quaking Asp intermingled. Here the plants were characteristic of the mid-alpine region, such species as *Fragaria vesca*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Urtica gracilis*, *Rubus strigosus*.

Troximon aurantiacum, *T. glaucum*, *Mertensia sibirica*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Aconitum columbianum*, etc., being observed. The mollusca were equally characteristic, including *Patula Cooperi*, *Conulus fulvus*, *Limnæa humilis*, *Pupa blandi* and others. The insects corresponded; on September 26th, I saw *Vanessa antiopa*; on September 30th, *Vespa maculata*; and at various times species of *Grapta*, *Colias*, *Lithobius*, *Geophilus*, etc. A marten was shot by one of our party, and a *Pulex* found parasitic upon it.

On September 30th we moved a few miles further down the valley, and at this camp I took a wasp, *Vespa arenaria* Fab.; two beetles, *Platycerus sepressus* Lec. ♀ (under a log) and *Neocrophorus vespilloides* Hbst. (flying by day), and a *Vanessa Milbertii*. I have also a note of *Hippodamia 5-signata* Kirby on Surface Creek, and *Pterostichus protractus* Lec., Delta County, the locality not exactly noted. *P. protractus* is recorded in the Wheeler Report from Fort Garland and the Roaring Fork, and so appears to be of wide distribution in Colorado, although I did not find it in Custer County. Colorado, as a whole, seems to contain comparatively few species of *Pterostichus* (though two or three are abundant), but plenty of *Amara*, thus:—

	Colo. (ms. list)	New Jersey (J. B. Smith.)	British Is. (Fowler & Matthews.)
<i>Pterostichus</i>	8	19	22
<i>Amara</i>	20	16	26

MESA, N. E.

In September, I crossed the northern border of the county close to the Mam Mountains, and traveled by way of Buzzard Creek and Plateau Creek to the Grand Mesa. This region is mid-alpine, but descending Plateau Creek we should soon meet with sub-alpine features, and even near Eagalite, where we camped, they were becoming quite marked. It will be convenient to group the notes under three districts:

(1) **Buzzard Creek District.**—The divide between North Mam Creek and Buzzard Creek is not so high but that the Scrub Oak grows there, being ordinary mid-alpine. Elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and black-tailed deer (*C. macrotis*) were observed on the Mam Mountains. At our camp near the foot of the Mam Moun-

tains, by a stream which runs into Buzzard Creek, *Vanessa antiopa* was common; of Hymenoptera, *Augochlora pura* Say was taken on September 15th, and *Apathus insularis* Sm. on September 17th; of Coleoptera, *Tachyporus jocosus* Say was found on September 14th, and *Nebria trifaria* Lec. (at the foot of the Mam Mountain) on September 16th. Species of *Geophilus* and *Lithobius* were also noticed.

On September 18th we camped on Buzzard Creek itself. I wrote at the time: "Buzzard Creek is a pretty stream, bordered with Willows,—and the surrounding country consists of low rounded hills, covered with gray *Artemisia*-brush, Oak-brush (now brilliantly red), and here and there patches of Quaking Aspen turning yellow." At this locality *Vanessa antiopa* was again met with; also *Culex* sp. and *Pæderus* sp., and in the creek plenty of the cases of *Helicopsyche* on stones. Two ducks shot were found to have eaten numbers of the latter.

Calathus ingratus Dej. was taken near Buzzard Creek.

(2) **Plateau Creek District.**—It is a good indication of the sub-alpine region when the creek bottoms begin to be filled with the narrow-leaved cottonwood, *Populus angustifolia*. This was the case near Eagalite (is this a corruption of égalité?), where we camped, and other indications of a warmer climate were not wanting. The sand by the creek was alive with lizards of two species (*Uta ornata* Baird and Girard, and *Cremidophorus sexlineatus* L.), while tiger beetles (*Cicindela 12-guttata* Dej.) were innumerable, taking flight at the slightest alarm. At night, there was a constant chirping of crickets. The other insects noted were *Vanessa antiopa*, *Catocala* sp., *Eupithecia* sp., *Trechus micans* Lec. (*chalybeus* Mann.), *Crabro odyneroideus* Cr., *Chrysis* sp.; and three Orthoptera, *Trimerotropis vinculata* Scudd., *Disotoma carolina* L., and *Acridium shoshone* Thos. Rose leaves were noticed to have been cut by some *Megachile*. The date of these observations was Sept. 19 and 20, 1887.

(3) **Grand Mesa District.**—On the north slope of the Grand Mesa a specimen of *Hemileuca juno* var. *diana* Pack., was taken on September 20th. We camped on the Mesa, near Clear Water Creek, at two different places, altitude about 9,800 feet. This is, of course, high mid-alpine. Some of the characteristic plants are *Achillea millefolium*, *Graphalium Sprengelii*, *Gentiana serrata*, *Galium boreale*, *Castilleja miniata* (form with rose-pink


flowers), *Ranunculus aquatilis* var. *stagnatilis*, *Caltha leptosepala*, etc. It is the zone of Spruce (*Picea Engelmanni*), but Quaking Asps are to be seen in diminished numbers. Three beetles collected proved to be *Amara terrestris* Lec., *Pterostichus longulus* Lec. and *Melanophila atropurpurea* Say. *Musca* sp. was observed, and species of *Lithobius* and *Julus*. Various things were collected in alcohol, but never got identified, with the exception of *Phalangodes robustus* Packard, concerning which see "Canadian Entomologist," July, 1889. A saw-fly larva found on September 22d, was 14 mm. long, reddish yellow, with a dark dorsal line, last segment purplish. It is perhaps identical with one I found on rose in Custer County.

A CLAIM THAT AN ANCIENT BEETLE HAS BEEN FOUND ALIVE IN IRON.—Our fellow-citizen, Z. T. White, is the owner of what we believe to be the most interesting insect and mineral specimen in existence. Some months ago Mr. White was presented with a specimen taken from considerable depth in the Longfellow mine of Clifton, Ariz. When the specimen in question was fractured, a beetle of dull reddish gray was disclosed, surrounded by a closely-fitting mold of iron ore; in fact, the beetle lay in state as perfect as in life, in the sarcophagus of iron. Naturally, very much impressed with his acquired property, Mr. White hastened to envelop it in a piece of cloth, with the view of conveying it to his cabinet. On his way, however, he had occasion to examine the interesting specimen, and his surprise may be better imagined than described when he perceived a young beetle slowly emerging from its dead parent's body, and in every characteristic resembling it, barring the fact that it was smaller. At the time Mr. White called the attention of the writer to the fact, the young beetle was placed under a glass by its owner. It continued to prosper and increase in dimensions and lived for five whole months. The specimen, the insect in its cyst of ore and the younger insect generated in a prehistoric period to be born in the nineteenth century, are now in the *Bullion* office awaiting Judge J. F. Crosby, of this city, who proposes to present them, with the compliments of our fellow-citizen, Mr. White, to a prominent scientific association of the Atlantic slope. Fossil insects are common; beetles and other insects inclosed in amber and other compounds are frequently met with, but geology in all these cases gives an explanation to account for the appearance of organic matter, but in this case there is no plausible pretext to account for the insects enveloped in a matrix of iron and found far beneath the surface, no other traces of organic life being present. It is almost beyond credence — *El Paso Bullion*.

ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS.

Published monthly (except July and August), by the Entomological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, with the endorsement of the American Entomological Society. It will contain not less than 240 pages per annum. It will maintain no free list whatever, but will leave no measure untried to make it a necessity to every student of insect life, so that its very moderate annual subscription may be considered well spent.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00, IN ADVANCE.

 All remittances should be addressed to E. T. Cresson, Treasurer, P. O. Box 248, Philadelphia, Pa.; all other communications to the Editor of ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS, Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., FEBRUARY, 1893.

It has been suggested that we should publish more reports of captures and local lists, after the manner of the English entomological journals. We are perfectly willing to do so, and trust our readers and subscribers who think such notes would be interesting, will send a supply for each month. This has been done to a very limited extent in entomological journals published on this side of the "great pond," and the reason is not far to seek. The conditions of affairs here as compared, for instance, with England are very different; we have an area of 3,605,000 square miles in which we collect, and the area of England and Wales is but 58,000 square miles. Moreover, there are perhaps fifty entomologists in England to each one in the United States. We also have many more species to look after, and it is a matter of very small moment to an American collector if he takes a common butterfly, but our English friend immediately reports it to his journal. On looking over an English entomological journal one will find it largely made up of notes of captures, local lists, items of interest to collectors, and similar affairs. Perhaps a number of people will report captures of *Colias hyale* and *Colias edusa*; now, if we should do the same, and every bug hunter should report the capture of *Colias philodice* in our immense territory, it would take up almost a whole issue of the NEWS to contain it all. There is a happy medium in everything, and while we do not expect to see these local reports carried out to the same extent as abroad, on account of the conditions being so very different, yet we might have very much more of it done here in America, so send in your reports and we will do the rest.

PICTURES for the album of the American Entomological Society have been received from William Beutenmüller, W. H. Edwards, H. H. Lyman, Dr. F. W. Goding, James Angus, Dr. S. W. Williston and E. B. Southwick. We still want all we can get.