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Philanthus punctatus var. cockerelli Dunning

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Richard Dow

for the benefit of one or two individuals; but it seems to me that if you will publish something each month that may be of interest to the merest tyro, you might enlarge your sphere of usefulness and add to the income of the NEWS"—W. R. H.

We are perfectly willing to adopt the suggestions of our correspondent; in fact such has long been our desire and we have made every effort to get just such communications. We even went so far as to send out printed circulars soliciting articles of the kind mentioned—but they came not. It can't be expected that the editors should write such articles each month as they also have matters to attend to that wont "down" and the time they devote to the journal is stolen from their own work. Now, W. R. H. we believe belongs to a large class of our subscribers and we turn the matter over to them to remedy, and await the result with much interest.

On November 4th, after a day's collecting, I had occasion to walk along the Erie Railroad track at Woodside, N. J., on my way home. I saw several larvæ of *Spilosoma isabella* crawling along on the inside of the iron rail, evidently looking for a place to cross over the track. I thought nothing of it until I saw some larva of *Arctia arge* which I took, and from that time on I kept my eyes on the rails. At a rough guess I must have passed at least 200 larvæ during the walk of about a half of a mile. *S. isabella* were the most numerous. I took the following: fifteen *Arctia arge*? four *Arctia nais*, three *Spilosoma rubricosa* and three different specimens of *Agrotis*. I had occasion to pass along the same place again a week later but did not see a sign of a larva.—A. J. WEIDT, Newark, N. J.

Philanthus punctatus var. *cockerelli* Dunning, ENT. NEWS, 1896, p. 69. —Mr. Dunning gives no locality for this variety; the type specimens cited were from Las Cruces, New Mex., August 24 and September 3, the latter on flowers of *Solidago canadensis*. I have been comparing our *Mesilla Valley punctatus* (which frequents the flowers of *Chilopsis* and *Sisymbrium* as well as *Solidago*, and appears as early as April 16) with specimens of typical *punctatus* taken by Mr. Robert Knetsch at Terra Cotta, Ill., and I find that our insect (var. *cockerelli*) constantly differs by the pale markings (light yellow to white), almost clear wings (with, however, a dusky apex), narrower head in the ♂, and eyes closer together at the top in both sexes. It seems to be a good subspecies at least, but Mr. Dunning's diagnosis should be modified to include all our specimens — T. D. A. COCKERELL.

1898

Hymenoptera - Sphecidae - Philanthininae