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Megachile Centuncularis

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Chlænium Nigricornis,
 **Elaphrus Riparius*,
 „ *Cupreus*,
 **Loricera Pilicornis*,
Pterostichus Nigrita,
 „ *Inæqualis*,
 **Anchomenus Marginatus*,
Anisodactylus Binotatus,
Stenolophus Teutonus (apparently
 o), rare),
Harpalus Rubripes,
Bembidium Flavipes,
 * „ *4-guttatum*,
 „ *Bipunctatum*.

Those marked with an asterisk are plentiful. I have also found eight or nine species of *Stenus*; and *Xantholinus* and *Stilicus* swarm under the cut grass where *Cacicula pectoralis* can also be found in any quantity. I have taken there *Philonthus rubidus*, *Aromia moschata*, *Leiosoma ovatula*, and several others during the last week. On the willows I took *Xyphidria dromedarius* (Hym.) last year about this time.—E. C. RYE, 284, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.; July 30.

Beetles at Home.—In the front of this house so graphically described in Newman's 'Insect Hunters,' there is a small bricked area, and the aspect being north it is usually somewhat damp, and the resort of sundry *Onisci*. Here they might lead quiet and sequestered lives as becomes such retiring animals, but it is no happy valley for them, for by accident or design certain filibustering *Carabidæ* drop down into it, and, relinquishing their usual nocturnal habits, employ themselves by making murderous daylight attacks upon the peaceful *Onisci*. In vain they roll themselves into balls, their assailants find a salient point, and working away with their powerful mandibles, soon leave nothing but a shell. These beetles, however, do not devote exclusive attention to the *Onisci*, for if a caterpillar unluckily falls from the birch tree above, they

devour it entirely; any poor powerless beetle that comes in their way is speedily added to the list of victims; even those hardest of all Coleoptera—the *Curculionidæ*—I find deprived of legs and antennæ, and eventually I believe the marauders attack each other, for their mutilated skeletons are scattered in all directions, showing the truth of the old adage, that "two of a trade never agree." The species I find are *Carabus violaceus*, *Pterostichus madidus* and *P. melanarius*, and sometimes a member of another amiable family, *Ocyrops olens*, drops in to assist at the revels.—J. W. DOUGLAS, 6, Kingswood Place, Lee; July 29.

Insects on the "Flat Holme."—I yesterday joined a party of excursionists by steamer to the "Flat Holme," in the Bristol Channel. As a collecting-ground it contains but a limited area, the entire circumference of the islet not exceeding three-fourths of a mile. The day was, however, favourable, and I was fortunate enough to take the following very local insects in tolerable abundance:—*Ctenopus sulphureus*, *Geotrupes levis*, and *Hipparchia semele*. The first-mentioned beautiful beetle I took principally on the wing, and a few on the blossoms of the thistle: the second abounded everywhere. At the instance of the President of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Club—who was present with many members of that Society—I made a short address to the assembled excursionists, inviting their attention to my prizes, which were handed round for examination, when I hope I may have succeeded in inoculating some of my hearers with a desire to know more of the beautiful organisms submitted to their observation.—W. V. GUISE, Elmore Court; July 30.

Ants'-nest Beetles near Monte Video.—I have taken two species of Myrmecophilous Coleoptera residing amongst the ants, and another species which seems to be in some way connected with them, as

I never find it except on or under stones, under which ants are, but I have never found it actually amongst them.—RICH. SHIELD, Calle de Solis, Monte Video, South America; June 28.

HYMENOPTERA.

Megachile centuncularis.—At the back of this house two rose trees grow up the wall, one of which is selected by this bee for her operations, the leaves being larger and thinner than those of the other tree, which are never touched by her. She comes in a direct line over the tall trees at the bottom of the garden, and soon selects a leaf. On this she settles, generally, but not always, with her head to the footstalk, and taking the leaf between her legs, rapidly cuts out a piece in the manner often described, sometimes circular, but often oval, her operations being no doubt guided by the requirements of her nest, the oval pieces being for the outside walls, and the circular ones for the partitions. It has been said that she poises herself on her wings in order to avoid tearing the leaf or to hinder her and the piece from falling to the ground when the latter is cut off, but I narrowly watched this one, and in every instance her wings were motionless. As the cutting proceeded, she curled the piece under her, and when the piece was separated both she and it fell downwards for a short distance; then, and not till then, did she open her wings to arrest the downward tendency, and soon recovering herself, mounted upwards with her burden. Sometimes, but not always, she rested on the palings close by, and then, rising upwards, proceeded in a direct line to her nest.—J. W. DOUGLAS, 6, Kingswood Place, Lee; July 30.

Sirex Gigas.—I see an announcement of the capture of one of this species (in or near a pine wood) in this week's 'Intelligencer.' About two months since I met with a good specimen in the High Street, Portland Town. How am I to

account for this "locality?" — JOHN GARLAND, F.L.S., *Dorchester; Aug. 12.*

Sirex Gigas. — On the 30th ultimo was captured a fine *Sirex Gigas*, Linn. It entered an upper room through an open window, a short distance from this neighbourhood. Its sudden appearance, with its bold and noisy flight, and formidable ovipositor, caused not a little difficulty in securing it without injury; this, however, was effected, and it was kindly presented to me alive and in good condition. To the above record, I may mention that one of the same species was captured in August, last year, in the central part of the city, entering a building in a similar manner, through an open window, but was brought to me much mutilated from the rough way it was taken and secured. — T. TIDEMORE, 15, Northampton Street, Lower Road, Islington; August 6.

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