lateral," while in the second the corresponding statement is : "First row *straight*." The species *contestata* (which, as before mentioned, is *pratensis*, Em.) was based on a single specimen, concerning which, in the paper of 1903, p. 649, it is written : "*Dorsal eye-area more than 1.5 the length of the cephalothorax*," while in 1904, p. 649, the statement is : "*Dorsal eye-area to the cephalothorax as 1:6*." Also in the first place : "*The length of the chelicera is about twice the height of the head in front*," while in the second he writes : "*Chelicera fully 2.5 times the height of the head in front*," etc.

COLLECTING BEETLES IN MEXICO.

BY FRANK R. MASON, GERMANTOWN, PA.

Although very much neglected in an entomological sense, the great Republic of Mexico, comprising nearly eight hundred thousand square miles of territory, is a fascinating field for the collector. It has been my good fortune to visit the country several times, but my trips have always been more or less hurried, so that collecting has been a side issue to which I should like to have devoted more time. It might be well to say that I only collected Coleoptera.

This last summer my way led southward from St. Louis through Texas, entering Mexico by the Laredo gateway. Our first stop-over was at Monterey, that city which has been so ravaged by fire and flood. Nothing especially interesting entomologically was turned up here, the fauna being practically Texan for some distance south of the Rio Grande. *Aphonus tridentatus*, Say, several species of *Ligyris* and *Xyloryctes satyrus*, F., found their way into the potassium jar ; *Euphoria basalis*, D. & G., was common on a species of cactus, while *Cotinis mutabilis*, Gory, was in great numbers, like swarms of bees, around the mimosas.

Two hundred and fifty miles further south, at San Luis Potosi, conditions were much the same ; the same arid, semi-desert plateau country, with ranges of bare, jagged mountains always in view. A flying trip over the Tampico division of the Mexican Central Railway added to our captures a fine specimen of *Antichira lucida*, Ol., which flew in through the car window ; I had some specimens of this in my collection from Brazil. Numerous *Heliconii*, *Victorina stelenes* and other unfamiliar tropic Lepidoptera were flying in the open forest glades in a most tempting way. From a scenic standpoint this journey from Cardenas down through the Tamasopo Canyon is probably one of the finest in the world.

January, 1910

One drops down in a few hours from the high desert country into all the luxuriant vegetation of the Gulf coast. The air is moist and humid from almost constant rainfall, and Nature seems fairly to have outdone herself in the wild riot of growth.

Again retracing our steps to San Luis Potosi, the next point at which I had any opportunity of collecting was in the neighbourhood of Lake Chapala, near Guadalajara, in the western part of Mexico. *Calosoma angulatum*, Chev.; *Epilachna Mexicana*, Guer.; *Pelidnota virescens*, Burm.; *Acanthoderes funeraria*, Bates; *Taricanus Truquii*, Thom.; *Calligrapha serpentina*, Rg.; *C. diversa*, Stl.; *Zygogramma malvæ*, Stl.; *Leptinotarsa Haldemanni*, Rg., and numerous other Phytophaga (as yet undetermined) were among our captures. Also *Trachyderes elegans*, which would light on the upper branches of the thorn trees in a most provoking way. Several species of *Macroductylus* were found in the gardens.

Cicindelidæ I always found to be very scarce; it may be I was never at the right season for them. *Cicindela flavopunctata*, Chev., and *C. mellyi*, Chd., I collected near Oaxaca, in southern Mexico, but they are the only ones. At Necaxa, in the State of Puebla, was found the remarkable *Chrysina macropus*, Franc.; in the male the hind femora are so enormously developed that it gives the beetle the appearance of walking on stilts. The species normally is a delicate apple-green colour, though some of the specimens are speckled like an egg.

But of all the collecting I have done in Mexico, the vicinity of Cordoba, in the State of Vera Cruz, has yielded the largest number of species. Take this section of the country from Motzorongo to Jalapa, and as far west as the town of Orizaba, at an elevation of 4,000 feet, one finds an ideal tropical country, a healthy climate, with all the rich and beautiful growth of the torrid zone, and but few of the disadvantages. Almost nightly rainfall or dense mists blown in from the Gulf keep things green and fresh. The graceful cone of Orizaba volcano, nearly 18,000 feet above sea level, is almost always in view, and its snow-covered summit forms a striking contrast when seen from the forests of the low-lands. Collecting at the electric lights, with which the plazas in even the smaller towns are supplied, yielded such interesting things as: *Acrocinus longimanus*, L. (the harlequin beetle of the Amazon); *Callipogon senex*, Dupont; *Dynastes hyllus*, Chev.; *Xyloryctes telephus*, Burm.; *X. furcatus*, Burm.; *Coelosis biloba*, L.; *Heterogomphus Chevrolati*, Burm.; *Podischnus tersander*, Burm.; *Strategus Julianus*, Burm.; *Golofa*

Pizarro, Hope; *Cyclocephala mafaffa*, Burm.; *C. stictica*, Burm.; *C. sanguinicollis*, Burm.; *Enema pan*, F., and several other species of which I am uncertain. Beating in the woods and undergrowth was equally productive: *Mallodon dasystemus*, Say; *Teniotus Luciani*, Th.; *Trichophorus Chevrolati*, Guer.; *Callichroma melancholica*, Bates; *Hammoderus ornator*, Bates; *H. spinipennis*, Thoms.; *Ptychodes politus*, Serv.; *P. trilineatus*, Linn., and *Lagochirus araneiformis*, L., are some of the Cerambycidae obtained in this way. Chrysomelidae were also plentiful, including *Chalcophana cincta*, Har.; *Colaspis prasina*, Lefev.; *Monocesta ducalis*, Clark; *Diphaulaca anlica*, Ol.; *Diabrotica Curtisii*, Baly; *Lactica Chevrolati*, Jac.; *Mesomphalia illustris*, Boh.; *M. Lebasi*, Boh.; many species of *Lema*, *Haltica*, etc.

The country around the city of Vera Cruz I found unproductive; it is low, sandy, with very little forest, not to mention the heat, which is sometimes terrific. One would do far better to go inland to the wooded country, say about 2,000 feet in elevation.

The return trip from Vera Cruz to New York was made by sea. Much to my regret, we were not permitted to land in either Progresso, Yucatan nor Havana; there being yellow fever in Vera Cruz, we were quarantined against all intermediate ports.

In the above short account by no means all the species found are mentioned; I realize the subject has been merely touched on. If I have but aroused the interest of some other collector to work the field more thoroughly, I shall be satisfied.

CORRECTION.

In my "Key to the North American Species of *Aeshna* found north of Mexico" (CAN. ENT., Vol. XL, pp. 377-391, 450 and 451), several more or less serious errors occur. The gravest of these appear in the measurements of the abdomen and wings, which must have been made with a faulty millimetre scale, as they are all too small by some 3-5 mm. The smaller measurements of appendages, genitalia, etc., have not suffered perceptibly by the defect in the scale. They will all appear correctly in my final revision of the genus. Other errors in the paper which can be corrected here are the following:

Page 378, seventh line from top, for *cephalad* read *dorsad*. Page 379, third line from bottom, and page 380, fifth line from top, for *A₁ at its origin and the anal triangle*, read *A₂ and A₃ at their origin*.—E. M. W.