

row, only slightly tapering toward their bases (*confirmatus*, etc.).

Ochlerotatus Arrib.

FF. Outstanding scales chiefly very broad, strongly tapering toward their bases, several of them emarginate at their apices (type, *squamiger*). *Lepidoplatys* n. gen.

EE. Scales of the mesonotum chiefly rather broad, obovate, outstanding scales of the wing veins narrow (type, *cyanescens*).

Lepidosia n. gen.

For want of knowledge of the egg-laying habits, the genus *Culicella* is omitted from the above table; also the genera *Melanoconion* and *Pneumaculex*, both of which have rather broad scales on the wing veins. The synonymy of the other proposed names, so far as these can be made out at the present writing, is as follows:

CULEX Linné: *Heteronycha* Arrib., *Neoculex* Dyar.

GRABHAMIA Theob.: *Feltidia* Dyar.

OCHLEROTATUS Arrib.: *Culicelsa*, *Culicada*, *Ecculex* and *Protoculex* Felt; *Pseudoculex* Dyar and *Grabhamia* Dyar (not of Theobald).

D. W. COQUILLET.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,
January 19, 1906.

IMPORTATIONS OF THE PRICKLY PEAR FROM MEXICO.

THE United States Department of Agriculture, through the Office of Grass and Forage Plant Investigations, has within the past three months made some large importations of species of economic cacti from the plateau region of Mexico. There is probably no region in the world where these plants are of so much importance as food for man and beast as they are in the great highland region of this republic. While some of the recent accounts of these plants which have appeared in the popular journals are spectacular and much overdrawn, there is still a great deal of well-founded popular and scientific interest in the prickly pears in this country. The importance of the prickly pear in the region above mentioned is apparent to all who have traveled in Mexico and observed Mexican habits and customs at all closely during any season of

the year, for there is scarcely a day throughout the year that the fruits, to say nothing of portions of the plants themselves, are not offered for sale on some of the markets in the cities of the republic.

The following brief list of imported varieties will serve as an illustration of the wealth and variety of material which the Mexican people have at their command: Nopal agua-mielillo, nopal amarillo, nopal amarillo-blanco, nopal amarillo-liso, nopal arton, nopal blanco, nopal blanco-liso, nopal charol, nopal caidillo, nopal camueso, nopal cardon, nopal cardon-blanco, nopal castillo-blanco, nopal cascaron, nopal cenizo, nopal chamacuero, nopal chavño, nopal cochinero, nopal cogonoxtle (cardencha), nopal colorado, nopal cristalino, nopal cuijo, nopal duraznillo, nopal duraznillo blanco, nopal duraznillo colorado, nopal fafayuco, nopal huevo de perro, nopal encarnadillo, nopal jarillo, nopal jocoquilla, nopal joconoxtle, nopal joconoxtle-chato, nopal joconoxtle-cuaresmaro, nopal leonero, nopal liso, nopal loco, nopal mameyo, nopal mansomorado, nopal naranjado, nopal negrito, nopal opalillo (apalillo), nopal pachon, nopal palamito, nopal paloalteño, nopal San Juanero, nopal sarco, nopal tapon, nopal tapon liso, nopal teca, nopal temperanillo, nopal vinatero, nopalito de jardin. About as many more unnamed economic forms in addition to the above have been imported.

Some of the above popular names refer to the same plant, being different appellations for the same thing from different localities, and others are varietal names only, but it is believed that the majority of them represent good botanical species.

DAVID GRIFFITHS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

MOISTURE FOR HEATED HOUSES IN WINTER.

THE dryness of the air in our furnace or steam-heated buildings in winter has often been referred to, and has also been experimentally investigated. Recently Mr. G. A. Loveland, section director of the Nebraska Climate and Crop Service, has made some cal-