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XXIV.—*Results of the Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen, 1921.*—No. 15. *Saw-flies.* By F. D. MORICE.

TWELVE specimens in all of this group were captured during the Expedition, but two only actually in Spitsbergen, the remainder on Bear Island, which lies between Spitsbergen and the North Cape. All are labelled as taken by C. S. Elton between June 14 and 26. Mr. Elton describes the surface of Bear Island visited by him as "shattered rock with very sparse tundra."

Like most of the saw-flies yet recorded from high northern atitudes, all belong to the tribe Nematini, and would have been included till recently in the Jurinean genus *Nematus*; but, according to our present classifications, three genera are represented among them, and each of these genera by a single species. Of the twelve specimens all but one are males, and none of the records throw any light on their attachment to any particular food-plant; but they are all such as might be expected to oviposit on some species of *Salix*, and one (the *Pontania*) is no doubt a gall-maker.

None of the species, I believe, are "new to science," nor do any of them appear to be actually confined to Spitsbergen or Bear Island. No. 1 was first described from "Lapland and Jemtland" (in Sweden). No. 2, known hitherto only from Spitsbergen, occurred on this occasion both there and in Bear Island. No. 3 seems to be a form described from the New Siberian Islands and the mouth of the Lena. All belong to genera which are well represented in Northern Europe and Siberia, and it seems most probable that they have spread into their present habitats from the nearest parts of the adjacent continent comparatively lately—*i. e.*, certainly since the Glacial Period,—though it is not easy to suggest any probable manner in which they can have crossed the intervening seas, for they have but little power of flight, and do not (like *Sirex* etc.) feed or pupate inside logs which might be floated to a distance from their birth-place.

Although I have not seen the actual "author's types" of any of these three species, I do not feel much hesitation about identifying them as follows. The largest of them (the *Amauronematus*) has, I believe, been described several times under different names, and I give these names as synonyms with the year in which each was first published. I reproduce also, from the label attached to each specimen, Mr. Elton's

notes as to the exact locality and other circumstances of its capture.

List of the Specimens.

1. *Amauronematus villosus*, Thoms., 1862 (described, as *Nematus villosus*, from "Lapland and Jemtland").

= *Nematus arcticus*, Holmgren, 1869 (described from "Spitzbergen").

= *Nematus brachyacanthus*, var. *palliditarsis*, Cameron, 1875 (described from a specimen now in Brit. Mus. taken by Eaton in Spitsbergen).

= *Nematus gelidus*, W. F. Kirby, 1882 (described from the same specimen in Brit. Mus. In the appendix to his Catalogue Kirby adopted Cameron's name *palliditarsis*).

= *Amauronematus hyperboreus*, Schmiedeknecht (nec Thomson!), 1911.

1 ♂, June 14. S.E. of Bear Island, Walrus Bay. "Flying over Tetradium limestone."

1 ♂, June 15. S.E. of Bear Island, Walrus Bay. "On bare rock: about 20 feet."

1 ♂, June 16. E. of Bear Island. "Tundra W. of Mount Misery: 0-150 feet."

1 ♀, June 17. S. of Bear Island. "Flying over barren Tetradium limestone."

2. *Pristiphora frigida*, Bohem., 1865 (described as *N. frigidus* from Spitsbergen. *Pristiphora adelungi*, Konow, 1902, seems to be only a dark-legged form of the same species, and identical with a var. mentioned by Bohemann. Konow and Enslein identify Bohemann's *frigidus* with the common European form *P. melanocarpa*, Hartig; but this seems hardly probable).

1 ♂, June 14. S.E. of Bear Island, Walrus Bay.

2 ♂♂, June 26. W. Spitsbergen, head of Ice Fiord, Gyps Valley. "100-200 ft.: slope with *Dryas* and *Saxifraga*."

3. *Pontania birulae*, Konow, 1907 (described and figured from "the New Siberian Islands and the mouth of the Lena").

2 ♂♂, June 16. E. of Bear Island. "Tundra W. of Mount Misery: 0-150 feet."

3 ♂♂, June 22. S.E. of Bear Island, Walrus Bay. "30-40 ft.: hillside, quarter mile inland, under stone or plant."