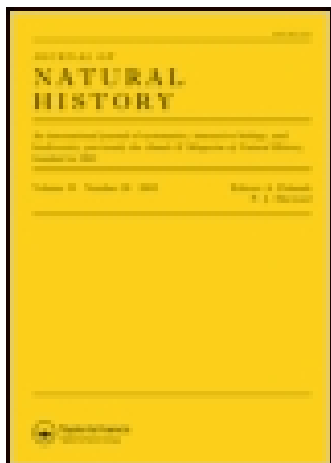


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| Species. | Date when found carrying ova. | General Remarks. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Porcellana longicornis</i> . | May 27, 1851. | Ova small and of a bright orange-brown; much more developed in some specimens than in others. |
| <i>P. platycheles</i> | May 30, 1850. May 30, 1851. | The ova are larger than in <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> , but of the same bright orange colour. |
| <i>Portunus variegatus</i> ... | July 23, 1850. | Ova red. I have a specimen in spawn I obtained from the oyster-dredgers, who do not dredge beyond February, but unfortunately I omitted to make a note. |
| <i>P. arcuatus</i> | I believe in January 1850. | |
| <i>P. puber</i> | Feb. 27, 1851. | The ova are of an orange colour: caught in a lobster-pot. |
| <i>Stenorhynchus phalangium</i> . | Feb. 27, May 24, 1851. | Ova of a dark orange colour. In the specimen of Feb. 27, and one of May 24, the ova were very much developed, but in a second of the latter date very little developed. |

Geographical Distribution of Hymenoptera in Arctic North America.

By ADAM WHITE, F.L.S.

“Otho Fabricius first, perhaps, recorded the names of any of the Hymenoptera of Arctic North America. Doubtless Baffin, Frobisher, and other manly navigators recognised humble bees and other bees during their summer voyages, and *may* have, in print or in manuscript, with sailor-like earnestness, made mention of every such occurrence in their journals. It is delightful to read the notices of flowers and verdure, in their accounts of the hurried spring, summer, and autumn of a Greenland year, of five-sixths winter. *Where* flowers and verdure abound, even for six weeks or a shorter time, *there* insects must be found;—*there* insects of the order Hymenoptera, the order to which this notice is limited, *must* occur. Flowers and Hymenoptera must be together.

“Otho Fabricius records two species of Hymenoptera as being brought by him from Greenland. His book, so admirable a model of a local fauna as to be even now one of the standards of excellence, was published in 1780. The next considerable accession to our acquaintance with the Hymenoptera of British America was made by Redman, who collected in Nova Scotia many fine species now in the British Museum. Some of these, such as *Pelecinus*, *Sirices*, *Ichneumonidae*, &c., were very prominent species, and are now being worked out in the vast collections of the National Museum.

“Sir John Richardson and his brave comrades collected many species, which were lost during their disastrous journey. They still, however, brought many insects to England, and in the ‘Fauna Boreali-Americana’ these insects are described by the venerable Kirby. The species of Hymenoptera are very few; there are only *thirty-two altogether*, including those of Canada and Nova Scotia;

the circumstances attending the journey not admitting of their collection and preservation.

“An eminent man, reasoning on such data as he had, has recorded his belief that it will be found that Hymenoptera do not abound in British North America: now it may be remarked, in making generalizations on the distribution of animals, especially on those of the lower orders, ‘that, before generalizing on a collection from any place not often visited or not often explored, attention be paid to the taste or tastes, or, in other words, to the bias or direction of the eye, hand, and mind of the person or persons who collect, supposing such reasoning is recorded as on authentic data.’

“Mr. George Barnston, to whose researches Sir John Richardson directed public attention in the ‘Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal’ for April 1841, has published a very admirable summary of the Progress of the Seasons as affecting Animals and Vegetables at Martin’s Falls, Albany River, James’s Bay, about lat. $51^{\circ}30' N.$, and in long. $86^{\circ}20' W.$ In this fresh and refreshing journal, there are *more than indications* that Hymenoptera, Diptera, and Neuroptera abound. In a year or two afterwards Mr. Barnston came to London and presented his collection to the British Museum.

“As one instance of his excellence as a collector, I may mention that Mr. Walker, who named and described the species of Diptera in the Cabinet of the British Museum, has alluded to or has described nearly 250 species of dipterous insects from the single station mentioned above; there being only 14 species of these insects recorded in the ‘Fauna Boreali-Americana’ of the Rev. Wm. Kirby. Mr. Barnston’s researches, among the Neuroptera also, were considerable and very valuable. One insect brought by him, the *Pteronarcys regalis* (although previously found in Canada), afforded Mr. Newport a fit subject for his genius, as an accurate anatomist and recorder of facts and reasonings on the insect æconomy. This gentleman discovered persistent *branchiæ* in the *imago* or perfect state of the *Pteronarcys*, and has recorded his discovery and quoted some observations of Mr. Barnston’s in a paper read at the Linnæan Society. As Mr. Gray’s Catalogues of the collections in the British Museum (mines of information to the reasoner and writer on geographical distribution) are published, it will be seen how valuable are Mr. Barnston’s and Sir John Richardson’s collections to our acquaintance with the articulated animals of British North America, especially in its more northerly parts.

“I have mentioned that Kirby *describes* or alludes to only thirty-two species of Hymenoptera in his ‘Insects of North America;’ while Mr. Barnston *in one spot* found 192 distinct species, exclusive of *Chalcididæ*. I subjoin a comparative list of the families of Hymenoptera, the comparison being made with the British species existing in the Museum collection at the time of this record. Mr. Barnston and myself worked out the *Tenthredinidæ*; my friend and coadjutor Mr. Frederick Smith, an able hymenopterist, determined the other species; so the list may be deemed as correct as the circumstances will admit.

“It must be borne in mind that our British collection of Hy-

menoptera has been accumulating for at least thirty years, was a favourite part of Dr. Leach's collection, and has been made over a wide and variegated country; while Mr. Barnston's was formed in three months, on one spot, and under almost unheard-of disadvantages, counterbalanced, however, by an enthusiasm not easily deterred by difficulties.

| | British Collection in British Museum. | Collected at Martin's Falls. |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Cimbicidæ | 10 | 4 |
| Tenthredinidæ | 157 | 76 |
| Siricidæ, &c. | 7 | 2 |
| Ichneumonidæ | 200 | 47 |
| Chalcididæ | ? | ? |
| Chrysididæ | 22 | 1 |
| Formicidæ | 11 | 7 |
| Mutillidæ | 5 | 0 |
| Sapygidæ | 2 | 0 |
| Pompilidæ, &c. | 38 | 2 |
| Crabronidæ | 57 | 16 |
| Vespidæ | 17 | 4 |
| Apidæ | 170 | 33 |

"A striking proof that the time has not yet come to reason correctly on the distribution of Hymenopterous insects,—at least in British North America."—*Arctic Searching Expedition, by Sir John Richardson*, vol. ii. p. 354.

Mr. Adam White desires to add, that the above paragraphs could be extended to other branches of articulated animals. When men like Kroyer go to Spitzbergen and Iceland, and Höllboll to Greenland, fish and crustacea "new to science" are found and described by them. Should his friend Harry Goodsir of the Erebus return to England, or should Captains Penny, Stewart, Lieutenant Osborne and MacClintock discover his papers; the scientific world will find that animal life is not so rare in these arctic seas as is generally supposed by many clever and enterprising men, whose researches do not lie in the direction of natural history. Captains Penny and Stewart and Dr. Sutherland saw walruses, narwhals, polar bears and seals in Wellington Channel. These creatures do not all live on one another. It is well to remember the rough but true lines so well known to every naturalist—

"Large fleas and little fleas have smaller fleas to bite 'em;
The smaller fleas have lesser fleas, and so *ad infinitum*."

ACANTHUS MOLLIS (LINN.).

In the course of last summer I received from the Rev. John P. Mayne of St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly, some flowers of *Acanthus mollis*, with a request to be informed of its name, as he found it growing wild in that island. In answer to questions addressed to him, he has since informed me that it grows in a spot separated from some houses by a narrow field, on the south side of a hedge, upon some heaps of stones collected there on the destruction of an old lane that formerly passed the spot. An old man who rents the field