

NOTES ON A FEW SPECIES OF COLEOPTERA WHICH ARE
CONFUSED IN MANY COLLECTIONS, AND ON SOME
INTRODUCED EUROPEAN SPECIES.

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In exchanging Coleoptera it is common to find many erroneous determinations of species. While these errors are for the most part individual, several are wide spread and seem to be perpetuated by tradition from the older collections. The object of this paper principally is to direct attention to a few of the latter.

1. *Triplax thoracica* Say, and *T. flavicollis* Lac. These species are often found in colonies feeding together on the same fungus, and have the same appearance. The separation of mature specimens is easy, the under side of *thoracica* being entirely rufous, while the metathorax and abdomen of *flavicollis* are black or piceous.

2. *Brachyacantha indubitabilis* Crotch. Several exchange lists contained this species; but when it came to hand, in every instance it proved to be *Hyperaspis signata* Oliv., which is of a similar size and appearance. Apart from generic characters, *indubitabilis* is more convex and the elytra are not compressed at the sides. The elytral yellow spot is noticeably nearer the base, and there is a smaller one near the apex, which is wanting in *signata*. The latter is widely distributed, while Illinois is given as the *habitat* of the other.

3. *Epierus pulicarius* Er. The insect usually sent by this name is the common *Hister subrotundus* Say. A glance at the head is instantly decisive. In the former the front is convex; in the latter, broadly concave; otherwise there is great similarity.

4. *Anomala minuta* Burm. This I have never seen, nor yet a description of it. All the specimens received in exchange so named have proved to be the black form of *varians*.

5. *Dromæolus striatus* Lec. I have not yet succeeded in obtaining this from any of the lists. There was sent to me twice *cylindricollis* Say, and six times *Nematodes penetrans* Lec. The species of the genus *Nematodes* should be of easy recognition, as in all of them the last abdominal segment ends in a spine, and on the thorax there are two, or four, deeply indented impressions or punctures.

6. *Calopteron reticulatum* Fab., and *typicum* Newm. Collectors seem

to think these names represent two species. Those having *reticulatum* are always endeavoring to obtain *typicum*; while those having the latter are always seeking for the former, without either of them succeeding satisfactorily. The literature of the subject is, perhaps, answerable for the confusion. The catalogue of the species of *Calopteron* (by Crotch) is now erroneous and obsolete. Dr. Leconte, in his recent Synopsis (Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., vol. 9, p. 63), corrects certain errors that occurred in his former Synopsis (Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., ser. 2, vol. 1, p. 74). He now makes *terminale* Say a species, and places *typicum* Newm. as a synonym of *reticulatum* Fab., referring to these two names all the forms now known east of the Rocky Mountains, regardless of the color of the thorax and elytra—to *reticulatum*, those having two elevated elytral costæ; and to *terminale*, those with four. By reference to the foot note (*ib.* p. 63) it will be seen that two unfortunate errors occur in the text at page 20, which, if not observed, would lead to great confusion.

7. *Eudercus pini* Oliv. Five times this has appeared on the lists of some of the more accurate of my correspondents, and as many times, instead, have I been sent *Psenocerus supernotatus* Say. I could scarcely account for this, and for the great demand for so common and so widely distributed an insect as *P. supernotatus*, till an appeal for the correctness of the determination *pini* was made to the Journal of the Acad. Nat. Sci., ser. 2, v. 2, p. 158, the writer stating that Dr. Leconte had several years ago so named his insect. Reference to the place cited shows that Dr. Leconte then regarded the *Callidium pini* Oliv. and the *Clytus supernotatus* Say as one species, which he placed in the genus *Psenocerus*. Subsequent investigation proved that *pini* (which had been unknown in nature to Dr. Leconte) was different from *supernotatus*, both as to species and genus. The error was corrected in the books, but it has given rise to a great mistake in the tradition of the insect. I have not yet seen *pini*, but from the description of Dr. Leconte (Smithsonian Misc. Coll. 1873, vol. xi., p. 202), it certainly resembles *P. supernotatus*. To distinguish them at a glance, it is only necessary to remember that the thorax of the former, instead of being pitted, is longitudinally rugose, and that there is on the elytra anterior to the middle a smooth, ivory white, obliquely transverse line which is wanting on the latter. *E. pini* seems rare. *P. supernotatus* is one of the few Cerambycids that occasionally hibernate. In February of the present year, I found three in the folds of a Cecropia cocoon taken from some currant bushes.

8. *Dermestes Frischii* Kugel. No notice of this species as having been found in our Fauna has been observed. It occurs in great abundance on the Atlantic coast at Brigantine, N. J., on sand-hills among fish refuse from the hotels. Till recently I regarded it as a variety of *vulpinus* Lin., but the receipt of *Frischii* from Europe enabled me to correct the error. Specimens sent to Mr. C. Spiess, Switzerland, labeled *vulpinus*, were also recognized at once as *Frischii*. It belongs to the division of the genus with *vulpinus*, from which it differs in being smaller, more scaphoid in outline, and in the last abdominal segment having only the *tip and a spot on each side denuded*. The under side is densely clothed with pure snowy pubescence, except the usual row of denuded spots on each side of the abdomen, and a smaller one on the episternum of the metathorax close to the elytra. The basal half of the femora is covered with the same white pubescence, and is not annulated. The pubescence on the sides of the thorax is the same as in *vulpinus*, though the triangular black spot has sparse semi-erect grayish pubescence, like the elytra.

9. *Dermestes murinus* Linn. Mr. H. F. Jayne, in his Revision of the Dermestidæ of the U. S., Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., 20, 350, describes *murinus* Linn., placing under it as varieties *caninus* Germ., and *rattus* Lec., and making synonyms of *nubilus* Say and *dissector* Kirb. With about fifty European specimens before me, and omitting the synopsis which is not applicable to the European *murinus*, I would call the description fair, provided "cinereus" is interpreted strictly to mean *gray tinged with black*; but in that sense, it does not apply to *nubilus*, in which *fulvus* takes the place of cinereous. If considered wise to unite in one species the above named forms, it might give better results to make *nubilus* a variety also, the differences between it and *murinus* being quite as appreciable as those of *caninus* or *rattus*. *Murinus* is black—has black antennæ, the mottling is of a different pattern, and it has not on it a fulvous hair or scale, except on the scutellum. *Nubilus* is blackish brown—has rufous antennæ, and the fulvous pubescence rather predominates over the dark.

Blaps mortisaga Linn. By whose authority this has been placed on our Catalogue is unknown to me. I have three insects from West Virginia, so called; but Mr. C. V. Riley, in a late number of the *American Naturalist*, says the Virginia species is *similis* Latr. It is greatly to be regretted that introducers of species frequently neglect to characterize them, so that when found by others they may be recognized. A name, without a description is only an aggravation. In the present instance I

have Trans-Atlantic specimens of both species, and the American form differs from either of them fully as much as they do from each other. The European *mortisaga* and *similis* seem to vary much within specific limits ; and had my American forms occurred in localities remote from one another, species-makers would doubtless have given each a distinct name. One has the thorax smooth, sparsely pitted, and the elytra sulco-striate ; another has the former uneven with shallow depressions, and also the elytra similarly sculptured and without the faintest appearance of striation or indentation ; while the third is intermediate. From the material before me I would say that the Virginia insect is as likely to be *mortisaga* as *similis*, with the chances in favor of some other of the numerous European species.

The species of *Donacia* are greatly confused, and as sixteen new species have been added since the last Revision (by Crotch), fourteen of which were described in Europe, a new synopsis accompanied by good descriptions is greatly desired. The same may be said of several other genera, especially *Brachynus*, *Bembidium*, *Heterocerus* and *Lachnosterna*, for all of which it is almost useless to exchange.

GLAUOPTERYX CUMATILIS AND MAGNOLIATA.

BY J. ALSTON MOFFAT, HAMILTON, ONT.

CUMATILIS, G. & R.

Color of front wings greenish white, with heavy black markings ; in one light the whole front wing is suffused with a rich smoky brown, whilst in another it has a beautiful green gloss deepest in the centre. Hind wings brownish gray. Two specimens.

MAGNOLIATA, Guen.

Color of front wings white with black and light gray markings. Five specimens, varying considerably from one another. Hind wings white, more or less pure.

The markings in both forms are identical, but differing greatly in depth and distinctness. In *Cumatilis* there is a sinuate line across the centre of the front wing of a buff color, quite distinct. In *Magnoliata* it is so faint as to be scarcely perceptible. *Magnoliata* has a conspicuous black