

by drenching the mattress, the bed and the room, with insecticide. However, the inspector saved six maggots to bring to me. Three of these died shortly afterwards, but three pupated and between November 14 and November 18, three flies emerged which I identified as *Musca domestica* Linn. the common house fly. The flies were scarcely half the size of normal house flies so I sent one to Mr. G. E. Shewell, Division of Entomology, Ottawa, who confirmed my identification.

The inspector said that the house where the infestation occurred was right on the sea shore, belonged to people of some substance, was extremely clean and well kept and that the housewife declared that the baby's bed was always covered with a rubber sheet under the normal bed clothes. Probably the rubber sheet leaked and the mattress became soaked with urine, and when it was hung out to dry, the flies laid eggs upon

it; certainly a diet of urine was famine rations because the maggots were half starved and stunted and the flies were the smallest I have ever seen of this species.

Amongst a long list of substances on which or in which house fly maggots can develop Hewitt\* records "substances contaminated or mixed with excremental products, such as bedding from piggeries and from rabbits and guinea pigs, paper and textile fabrics which have been contaminated, as cotton and woollen garments, sacking, rotten flock-beds, straw mattresses, cess pools, etc.", but he does not mention urine-soaked material specifically, *i.e.*, material contaminated with urine only. (There is a recent reference to house flies developing on urine alone but I cannot locate it at this time.—G. J. Spencer, *University of British Columbia*.)

\* Hewitt C. Gordon, 1910. *The House Fly*. Manchester University Press.

## SOME UNUSUAL RECORDS OF BEETLES IN VANCOUVER

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Two blocks from my house in West Point Grey are several rhododendron bushes whose lower leaves have been ragged for years. On May 20, 1952, I examined them at night with a flashlight, swept the bushes thoroughly and recovered a few specimens of *Brachyrhinus singularis* L. the clay-coloured weevil which injures laurel hedges so extensively in Vancouver, but more specimens of a weevil identified for me as *Strophosoma melanogrammus* Forst. an insect slightly smaller than the clay-coloured weevil. In his Catalogue of the Coleoptera of North America Leng lists one species (16641) in this genus, *S. coryli* (Fab.); I do not know when Forst named this second species. Andison (Proc. B.C. Ent. Soc. 38, 1942) mentions that Kaven in Germany found *B. singularis* attacking rhododendron, but this instance of *S. melanogrammus* would seem to be a new record for this species on this host.

Another unusual record is of a small beetle *Barypeithes pellucidus* Boh., No. 16672 in Leng's Catalogue, the only species in this genus, listed as "introduced" from Old France and recorded from New England and New

York. This beetle was sent in to me from Burnaby where it was found in tunnels of one of our native death watch beetles *Coelosthetus* which was burrowing freely in timbers of an old house, heavily attacked by dry rot. Chunks of wood were sent to me (25.V.1953) and I recovered the beetles from the tunnels. This was the second time that I have taken this beetle from tunnels of *Coelosthetus*; but the first time I mistook them for strawberry root weevils that had merely sheltered in the wood and, unfortunately I discarded them. The insects which are slightly smaller than the strawberry root weevil, have a shining black head with very dark brown thorax, dark brown elytra and tan-coloured legs and antennae. It may be that this beetle is a predator on some stage of *Coelosthetus*; its occurrence in the death watch tunnels seems to be hardly accidental.

A third rather unusual beetle record is of a small Nitidulid, *Meligethes nigrescens* Stephens, not mentioned in Leng's Catalogue. Specimens of this insect were brought to me in April, 1953, from a neighbouring golf course

where they alighted in such numbers on the surface of a pail of water that a groundsman was carrying, as to excite his astonishment and curiosity. On the 10th of May, 1953, I collected several scores of this same beetle from the shady side of an empty concrete swimming pool at Milner in the Fraser Valley. Moisture was condensing on the side of the pool and the beetles confined themselves to the wet areas; if one moved on to a dry patch, it soon came back to the wet surface. The sides of the pool were vertical and, from somewhere, hundreds of these insects arrived, but alighted only on the damp areas. I am deeply indebted to Hugh B. Leech for the preceding three identifications.

Finally, on March 4th, 1954, a couple brought me some beetles which, they said, were continually appearing in their bath tub; they wondered if they were of economic importance. The small beetles are *Cryptophagus bidentatus* Makl., recorded from Alaska, of which I have one specimen taken from the fur of a Shrew at Alta Lake; however,

*bidentatus* has very small ommatidia in its eyes and these specimens have larger, rather projecting ommatidia; otherwise they are very similar. I promptly asked the people if they had any polypore fungi in the house and, as it turned out, he is a school teacher who collects fungi so these beetles must have come from one of his specimens.

In the bath tub was also a larger  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. beetle which keys out in Hinton's monograph to the genus *Megatoma*, family Dermestidae. Leng calls the genus *Perimegatoma*, but Hinton states that the genotype of *Perimegatoma* cannot be distinguished from the genotype of *Megatoma* so the latter name has priority. Of this genus I have only two species at the University: *P. cylindrica* Kirby which is a synonym of *P. falsa* Horn, and *P. respulae* Milliron which is proving a pest of the first magnitude in the departments of Zoology and Botany at the University where it attacks insect material in our cabinets and the plants in the herbarium.

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## SOME RECORDS OF ECTOPARASITES FROM FLYING SQUIRRELS

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From a number of records on hand of ectoparasites from flying squirrels, I have selected only those instances in which I picked off the specimens myself by a uniform system of combing, brushing and laboriously examining under a low power microscope in order to obtain the greatest number of specimens without resorting to the Werneck-Hopkins method of dissolving the fur in hot caustic soda.

The same procedure is followed when examining birds and mammals, namely, parting the fur on the neck and head under a stereoscopic microscope to find an egg or a louse as an indication of infestation, and, if either is present, combing the head and neck

first and then the whole body with a medium, then a fine-toothed comb and brushing in all directions over a large sheet of white paper with a stiff test-tube brush. Short-haired mammals or birds with short feathers on neck and head are subjected also to a rapidly rotating round brush twirled by a machine. Every animal is examined both as soon as received and again, after being held overnight in a refrigerator at 18° F. to either kill or stiffen any lice which would not release their hold under the first treatment.

The local flying squirrel *Glaucomys sabrinus oregonensis* (Bachman) is fairly common in the woods on the campus