

SCAPHINOTUS (NEOCYCHRUS) ANGULATUS SUBSP. MARITIMUS FROM DEPARTURE BAY, B.C. (Coleoptera, Carabidae).—During October 1946, I found by chance at Departure Bay a specimen of that rather scarce carabid beetle *Cychnus tuberculatus* Harr. While this in itself was a worthwhile find, it led to a still more notable discovery.

Being anxious to secure a series of *C. tuberculatus*, I returned shortly to the spot and conducted an extensive search. Although unable to find any more *Cychnus*, I came across two examples of *Scaphinotus (Neocychnus) angulatus* subsp. *maritimus* Van Dyke.

Several ensuing searches over the same area produced no further results of note. However, just about a year later, the discovery of remnants of *C. tuberculatus* in an empty beer bottle gave me the idea of trying out traps. Small pickle jars, sunk in the ground, and baited with fermented quince jelly and honey, proved extremely effective. I kept the traps going for about a month, visiting them as a rule once in two or three days. In this time they yielded a large number of beetles of the genera *Scaphinotus*, *Pterostichus*, and *Holiciophorus*, among which were twenty-one examples of *Scaphinotus angulatus*, all of the rare black phase *maritimus*.

Only over a very small area were the traps effective in securing *S. angulatus*. If set more than a few yards from an old maple stump, which apparently harbored a colony of these beetles, only common species were taken.

Dr. Van Dyke writes, "The typical phase of the species is listed from Vancouver Island, Western Washington, east of Puget Sound and Portland, Oregon. Numbers were at one time found by Professor O. B. Johnson near Seattle, though it is quite rare in collections."

"The subspecies is but a color phase of the preceding though all specimens found within its area of distribution are similar. It is entirely black and shining and seems to be confined to the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. My type, I collected near Port Angeles. Others seen, are from Melbourne, Hoquiam and the Olympic National Forest. It is also very rare."

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¹A review of the subgenera *Stenocanthoris* Gistel and *Neocychnus* Roeschke of the genus *Scaphinotus* Dejean—*Entomologica Americana* 24(1):1-19, 1944.

POECILONOTA MONTANUS Chamb. (Coleoptera:Bu-prestidae).—In 1945 I discovered a host tree of *Poecilnота montanus* at Creston, B.C. It was a large living tree of *Populus trichocarpa*, with the trunk bark riddled with fresh and old exit holes, and 19 specimens were collected on the trunk: July 22 to August 14. Hoping the next season to discover the earliest date of appearance, the tree was closely watched, but no specimens were seen. This suggested a two-year cycle, so the same watching was followed in 1947, and 13 specimens were gathered: July 13 to August 17. *P. montanus* is larger than *californica*, and much scarcer, and in color exactly matches the bark of the host tree.—G. Stace Smith, Creston, B.C.

THE EGG-POTENTIAL OF ERGATES SPICULATUS Lec. (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae).—On August 1, 1944, I was given a large, heavily-gravid specimen of *Ergates spiculatus* Lec., the long-horned fir stump borer which a citizen had picked up in Riverside Park, Kamloops. The beetle was sluggish on account of the tremendous distension of its abdomen. After cyaniding it, I dissected out the eggs, of which there were 494 in all. They were remarkably uniform in size, averaging 4 mm. in length and 2 mm. diameter at the middle; a very few were slightly smaller, being 3.6 mm. by 1.9 mm. They were uniformly cream colored, shaped like a rugby football but proportionately broader in the middle, with more pointed ends. The micropilar end was slightly indented like a minute crater. The whole surface of the chorion was coarsely and uniformly beaded like the surface of a beaded projector screen.

Since the beetle had been captured and not reared, it was impossible to tell whether or not it had already laid any eggs; certainly the abdomen was so distended that it could not have laid very many, if any at all. The condition of the aetrotrophic ovarioles indicated that in this species, all the eggs mature at about the same time because there were no smaller ones developing in the germaria as occurs in the panoistic ovarioles of our common grasshoppers which lay their eggs at intervals, in pods.—G. J. Spencer, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

GASTRALLUS MARGINIPENNIS Lec. (Coleoptera: Anobiidae).—A new record for British Columbia is *Gastrallus marginipennis*, though two specimens have been in my collection since 1932, but only recently identified by H. B. Leech. Before spring of that year I discovered a host plant, *Clematis ligusticifolia*, on the banks of the Kootenay River at Creston. The stems were riddled with small holes containing larvae. I tried to rear these but only one adult emerged (March 19); later (July 5), the second specimen was taken on the same bush. They are small, compact, brown beetles, resembling *Throscidae*, and have been recorded from California and Colorado.—G. Stace Smith, Creston, B.C.

HUMMING BIRDS VISITING APHIDS.—In July, 1947, I was watching a red-throated humming bird visiting the flowers in my garden and noted one individual which left the flowers and hovered up and down the large limbs of a nearby apple tree. As no leaves or blossoms occurred on the limb, I made a closer examination and saw the bird introducing its beak among the colonies of woolly apple aphids which were present around the stubs where side shoots had been cut from the main limbs.

The colonies were small, but the bird visited each in turn, being evidently attracted by the drops of honey-dew which are always plentiful on colonies of the aphid. On the other hand, it may have been feeding on the aphids themselves, but I could not determine this point. The waxy covering of the aphids was much torn and disturbed by the activities of the bird.—E. P. Venables, Vernon, B.C.