

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

June 24. Visitors present were Professor Carl J. Drake, Associate Professor of Entomology, The N. Y. State College of Forestry, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y., and Mr. Geo. F. Arnold, Nursery Inspector, State Plant Board of Mississippi.

Under "Timely Notes" Prof. Watson reported that stink bugs and pumpkin bugs were attacking fruit unusually early this year.—In answer to a question by Dr. J. H. Montgomery, Prof. Watson advised that the Whitefly Ladybeetle (*Delphastus catalinae*) received by him from the State Insectary of California, and introduced into several places in Florida, was reported as having become established at Bradentown, but that he had not been able to go and verify the report.

In the first paper of the evening, "Insects and the Optimistic Grower", Mr. F. M. O'Byrne, Inspector of Nursery Stock, noted some personal experiences and made some suggestions valuable to those whose lot it becomes to recommend treatment for insects or diseases. Some growers will follow the advice of the last visitor rather than of the man supposed to know. Others, the optimistic kind, discount all recommendations made. In such instances, reference to concrete results obtained by others who had the same insects or diseases in their trees are most convincing. In general, advice given should anticipate mistakes growers may make and be followed by a second visit if possible. Recommendations should preferably be in written form in which necessary details should be stressed.

The second paper of the evening, "Storage and Fumigation of Corn and Other Seeds for Weevils", was by Mr. R. L. Clute. Mr. Clute first briefly referred to the kinds of insects generally found infesting stored plant products in Florida, and then showed plans for the proper storage of corn, etc., in which fumigation for insects can be properly done. The importance of storing corn without the husks was particularly emphasized, as it requires less room for storage and less carbon bisulphide for fumigation. Several photographs of good storage houses in use in Florida were also exhibited. Mr. Clute is embodying the subject matter of this paper in a practical bulletin for farmers and others.

In a third paper of the evening, "The Purse Spider and Two Rare Tingids", Professor Drake gave some very interesting information. The Purse Spider, supposed to be of rare occurrence, was found by Prof. Drake to be quite common at Gainesville,

Fla. He had previously taken a specimen from a frog's stomach at Cedar Point, Ohio. A colony of these spiders has been reported at Washington, D. C., and Professor J. H. Comstock collected it at Lake City, Fla., some years ago.—The first tingid in question is *Teleonemia belfragei*, now very common on *Callicarpa americana* (French mulberry) on the University campus and vicinity at Gainesville. Previously reported only from the West Indies, *Callicarpa* is furthermore a new host for this tingid.—The other tingid is *Dichocysta pictipes*, of which Prof. Drake collected two specimens in the hammock on the University campus. This species had previously not been collected east of Arizona in the United States, but is found in Mexico.

July 22. Visitors present were Miss Isabelle Mays, Instructor in Mathematics, University Summer School, and Mr. E. L. Robinson, Asst. Principal, Public Schools, Tampa.

Professor Carl J. Drake, School of Forestry, Syracuse University, N. Y. State, and Mr. E. L. Robinson were elected to the membership of the Society.

Under "Timely Notes" Professor Drake reported a new species of Fulgorid (Lantern-fly Family) on gallberry and huckleberry about Gainesville, Fla.—Professor Watson reported on the successful use of Kansas bait on the Fall Army Worm (*Laphygma frugiperda*) on a property south of the University grounds, and that army worms were general over the State from Miami to Bonifay and Chipley.—Mr. Geo. B. Merrill reported briefly an outbreak of the Fall Army Worm just north of Gainesville, advising that the same was controlled in part by dusting zinc arsenite and calcium arsenate and in part by plowing furrows to keep the worms back.

In the first paper of the evening, Plant Commissioner Wilmon Newell described an outbreak of the Banana Root Borer (*Cosmopolites sordidus*) in South Dade County. Thirty-four properties were inspected from January 6 to 19, of which seven were found infested. This beetle had been declared a public nuisance by the Plant Board only in the December (1917) preceding. Eradication work was at once begun by digging and burning the plants. Split banana stems were used as baits in the fields and large numbers of the beetles caught and destroyed. This beetle is a pest in Cuba, Jamaica, British Guiana, islands of the South

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Pacific and India. The infestation was traced to a nursery on the West Coast.

"Pumpkin Bugs", the second paper of the evening, was read by Professor Drake, who was then investigating the habits and life history, but especially the insect enemies of these bugs. Professor Drake suggests the common name of Southern Green Stink Bug for *Nezara viridula* to distinguish it from *Nezara hilaris* which is the commoner species farther north but also found here. *N. viridula* is in northern Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world. *N. marginata* and *N. pennsylvanica* are also in Florida but rare. Radish is the favorite food of these bugs in spring and is suggested as a trap crop to protect other plants and vegetables. Cowpeas are also much attacked.—The egg masses of *N. viridula* average 80-90 eggs and hatch in 4-5 days. There are 5 instars, or stages, i. e., there are 5 sizes of the bugs, counting the newly hatched and including the full grown bugs. The life cycle is 4-6 weeks in summer. *N. viridula* has its share of natural enemies, including the Wheelbug, Tachina Flies, Sarcophagidae, and egg parasites. The Tachina Flies and Sarcophagidae are flies resembling houseflies, but are more hairy, and it is the maggots of these flies that infest the bugs.

Both of these papers were discussed by those present.

August. No meeting was held because so many of the resident members were absent from Gainesville on account of professional duties.

September 30. Twenty-seven visitors were present from among those who were attending the Citrus Seminar and the Live Stock Roundup at the University.

The first paper of the evening was by Mr. W. L. McAtee of the U. S. Biological Survey. Mr. McAtee gave a very instructive account of the different lines of work conducted by the Survey. These include investigations of the useful and injurious mammals and birds of the United States, habits and distribution of North American animals, enforcement of federal laws pertaining to importations, quarantines, etc., and a game law section. The Society's interest, however, was centered mainly upon the methods of identifying insect remains in bird's stomachs. This is a very difficult task, but not impossible, since there are certain

hard parts of insects, such as jaws, that admit of fairly accurate identification. Brief accounts of the insect diet of such birds as the bullbat, swallow, quail, oreole, flicker, etc., were given. Thus, the quail, swallow and oreole are undoubted enemies of the Boll Weevil. 5000 ants were found in the stomach of a single flicker. The Boll Weevil is eaten by 66 kinds of birds, the Gypsy Moth by 45 kinds, and leaf-hoppers by 200 kinds.

The second paper of the evening was a round table discussion of common names of insects, led by Professor J. R. Watson. While common names are of practically no value to the entomologist whose requirements are wholly met by the scientific names, it is recognized that common names are needed when discussing insects with growers and others who are generally not familiar with the use of scientific names. The trouble with common names, however, is that there may be several of them in use at the same time or in different localities for the same insect, and it is apparent that in written articles at least, some one name should be selected and used and not a different one in each article. Thus *Nezara viridula*, commonly known as the Pumpkin Bug, is also called the Southern Green Plant Bug, while the name Southern Stink Bug has been suggested. Again, *Selenaspidus articulatus* is known as the West Indian Red Scale, or Rufous Scale. It being apparent that, in order to secure uniformity in common names and to avoid the duplication of such, some one should be recognized as authority to indicate the preferred common names. To further this end, it was voted, on motion of Mr. Wm. Somme, that the President appoint a committee of three on common names of insects. Appointed were J. R. Watson, E. W. Berger and Dr. J. H. Montgomery. It will be the duty of this committee to report to the Society from time to time lists of the preferred common names of insects for publication in THE BUGGIST. Discussion was continued at the next meeting.

Approximately 300,000 species of insects have been described and named and there are probably five times as many more.

WANTED—Diurnal Lepidoptera of Florida in exchange for desirable western species. Over 3000 butterflies on hand for exchanges. Dr. John A. Comstock, Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, Calif.