

Beatty, 1944

Diptera: 144-155
Journal of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico 28(34)
1944: 144

THE INSECTS OF ST. CROIX, V. I.

THYSANURA

By HARRY A. BEATTY

Determinations by Ashl

A study of Orthoptera and Isoptera have considerable interest, not only in the presence of several undescribed forms, but especially in the absence of species otherwise quite common on neighboring islands. Lepidoptera has received scant attention from entomologists. W. P. Comstock records 33 forms of the suborder Rhopalocera in "Scientific Survey of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands," Vol. XII, part 4. My collection adds 10 forms, most of them common, to his list, and questions the occurrence of *Urbanus dorantes cramploni* on St. Croix as no specimens have been taken, while *U. proteus* is an extremely abundant form. The status and economic value of the parasitic Hymenoptera is badly in need of determination. Some field work has been revealing and several very interesting observations would indicate that parasitization of many forms, in the Orthoptera, Diptera and Lepidoptera for example, apparently maintain them at a low status that is of economic importance. The absence of fruit infecting species of Diptera is quite marked. There are no records of occurrence of fruit-flies, *Anastrepha* species, in nispero (*Sapota achras*), papaya (*Carica papaya*), guavas (*Psidium guajava*).

The capture of six specimens of a Reduviid of the *Tritoma* family is of importance, since it established the presence of a genus that is well known to medical science as the host to *Trypanosoma*, which is a blood parasite of man. A great amount of time was devoted to research on Diptera, in particular the *Culicidae* and certain other species which infest flesh wounds. So far, *Cochliomyia americana* has not been taken on St. Croix. The study of *Culicidae* centered around a malaria and filaria control project sponsored by the Department of Health. The writer was in charge of the work for eight years and considerable laboratory and clinical experimentation was probed.

The writer devised a net which was extremely successful in capturing flying insects at dusk. By its use, many rare things were taken, and it will, no doubt, prove itself in other presumably well collected islands. The thing is simply a strong wire frame three feet long and one foot wide, fitted with a baggy fine-mesh netting, attached securely on the back of the seat and extended about one foot above the chauffeur's head on a topless roadster, also minus a windshield. Moving along at from five to ten miles per hour, at every half mile a stop was called and the catch collected, using a flash-light and aspirator; for speed is required to capture the active insects such as Staphylinidae.

- 1 *Nicoletia* sp.
Taken in rotting log, Jealousy stre
- 2 *Lepismatidae*. Genus?
"Clearly a different genus to *Nicole* the presence of eyes." Taken in rott April 1938.
- 3 *Lepismatidae*
Probably *Nicoletia* sp. "A somew apparently belongs to *Nicoletia*."

ORTHOPTERA

The following records are based on mat Gurney, and deposited in the U. S. Nati

FORFICULIDAE

- 1 *Doru albipes* F.
Under decomposing vegetable matte
- 2 *Labia curvicauda* Motschler
Taken at light. January 1936. i matter. October 1936.

LABIDURIDAE

- 1 *Euborellia plebeja* Dohrn
Under rubbish heap. January 1939.

BLATTIDAE

- 1 *Aglaopteryx* n. sp.
Common in rotting stumps and unde dry vegetation draping over branch
- 2 *Supella supellectilum* Serville
A common species, at night on flowers ber 1936. Attracted by light to u December, 1937. Under rubbish li March 1938.
- 3 *Cariblatta antiguensis* S. & Z.
Common under heaps of rubbish. September 1936. On fruit of *Calypso Terminalia catappa*. May & Octob

- 5 *Drosophila similis* Williston
September 1941.
- 6 *Drosophila* sp.
April 1936.
- 7 *Drosophila* sp.
March 1941.
- 8 *Cladochaeta nebulosa* Coquillett
July 1939.
- 9 *Leucophenga* sp. near *varia* Walker
September 1936.

AGROMYZIDAE

- 1 *Agromyza viridula* Coquillett
Det. C. T. Greene.
- 2 *Agromyza virens* Loew
Det. C. T. Greene.
- 3 *Agromyza longicauda* Curran
Det. C. T. Greene.
- 4 *Agromyza* sp.
Det. C. T. Greene. June 1941.

MILICHIIDAE

- 1 *Milichiella lacteipennis* Loew
Det. D. G. Hall. March 1939.
- 2 *Milichiella* sp.
Det. C. T. Greene. August 1939.
- 3 *Desmometopa M-nigrum* Zetterstedt
Det. C. T. Greene. March 1939.

HIPPOBOSCIDAE

- 1 *Ornithoctona erythrocephala* Leach
Taken off Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo j. jamaicensis*. Det. J. Bequaert.
1937.
- 2 *Pseudolynchia maura* Bigot
Off Ground Dove, *Columbigallina passerina nigrirostris*. Det. A.
Stone. 1936.
- 3 *Microlynchia pusilla* Speiser
Off Ground Dove, *Columbigallina passerina nigrirostris*. Det. A.
Stone. 1936.
- 4 *Olfersia aenescens* Thompson
Off White-bellied Booby, *Sula leucogaster*. Det. J. Bequaert. 1936.

- 5 *Olfersia fossulata* Macquart
Taken by net from bush. Det.
- 6 *Olfersia spinifera* Leach
Off Frigate-bird, *Fregata magni*
1936.
- 7 *Olfersia erythroptis* Bigot
Off Blue-faced Booby, *Sula d. d*
- 8 *Olfersia sordida* Bigot
By net on shrubbery. Det. A. S
- 9 *Melophagus ovinus* Linn.
Off domestic sheep. 1936.

STREBI

Determinations by J. Bequaert.

- 1 *Trichobius truncatus* Kessel
Off fruit bat, *Brachyphylla cavern*
- 2 *Trichobius mixtus* Curran
Off fruit bat, *Artibeus jamaicensi*
- 3 *Trichobius sparsus* Kessel
Off fruit bat, *Artibeus jamaicensi*
- 4 *Pterellipsis aranea* Coquillett
Off fruit bat, *Artibia jamaicensi*

SIPHONAI

TUNGII

- 1 *Tunga penetrans* Linn.
Taken from man.
- 2 *Echidnophaga gallinacea* Westwood
Off rat (*Rattus fatus alexandrin*)

PULICII

- 1 *Pulex irritans* Linn.
Taken off man.
- 2 *Xenopsylla cheopis* Rothschild
Off gray rat (*Rattus r. alexandrin*)
- 3 *Ctenocephalides canis* Curtis
Common on dogs, mongoose (*Her*
on man.
- 4 *Ctenocephalides felis* Bouché
Taken off cats, dogs and mongoos