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NOTE ON THE FOOD OF THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER¹

By HARRIET EXLINE AND MELVILLE H. HATCH

In western Washington the Black Widow spider (*Latrodectus Mactans* F.) is known only from Whidby Island, Fidalgo Island, and some of the San Juan Islands. In the latter locality one of us (H.E.) in the summer of 1934 collected such an extensive series of the remains of animals, mostly Coleoptera, that had apparently served as the prey of this spider that it was thought worthwhile to publish a list thereof.

The specimens reported on were obtained from a total of seven

¹ Contribution from the Zoological Laboratory of the University of Washington.

or eight nests and the number of individuals of each species collected, when there was more than one, is indicated in parentheses following each name.

Entomologists will recognize in *Coniontis*, *Eleodes*, *Dyslobus*, and *Brachyrhinus* very resistant beetles that often endure many hours in the cyanide bottle before being overcome, and the suggestion is probably not without merit that the virulent toxicity of the venom of the Black Widow is correlated with the "tough" nature of its prey.

We are indebted to Mr. M. C. Lane for the name of the *Adelocera* and *Ludius tinctus* and to Mr. W. J. Eyerdam for the identification of the gastropod.

LIST OF SPECIES

ISOPODA: *Porcellio scaber* Latr.

DERMOPTERA: *Forficula auricularia* L.

CICINDELIDAE: *Omus dejeani* Reiche (2)

CARABIDAE: *Scaphinotus angulatus* Harr., *S. angusticollis* Mann., *S. marginatus* Fisch. (4), *Pterostichus algidus* LeC. (*validus* Dej.) (5), *P. adstrictus* Esch., *Amara* probably *californica* Dej., *Harpalus cautus* Dej. (3)

SILPHIDAE: *Necrophilus hydrophiloides* Mann.

ELATERIDAE: *Adelocera profusa* Cand., *Ludius tinctus* LeC., *L. suckleyi* LeC.

BUPRESTIDAE: *Buprestis aurulenta* L. (2)

TENEBRIONIDAE: *Eleodes parvicollis* Esch. var., *Coniontis ovalis* LeC. (26)

SCARABAEIDAE: *Odonteus obesus* Melsh., *Diplotaxis brevicollis* Lec. (16)

CERAMBYCIDAE: *Anoplodera crassipes* LeC.

CURCULIONIDAE: *Dyslobus granicollis* LeC., *Brachyrhinus sulcatus* F., *Phytonomus zoilus* Scop. (*Hypera punctata* F.)

ARANEIDA: Probably *Clubiona pacifica* Banks

GASTROPODA: *Epiphragmophora fidelis* Gray (2 immature)

In addition there were found two specimens of an unidentified *Vespa*, an ant, and the pupal case of a moth.



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