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## A Collecting Adventure Near Home (Coleop.).

By FRANK R. MASON, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Early June, 1921, found Mr. Alan S. Nicolay, of Brooklyn, New York, and myself scouring the subalpine region of the White Mountains, New Hampshire, in search of Coleoptera, especially the rarer forms of Cychrini. However most species of this group *are* rare and require rather careful hunting.

We confined our efforts largely to the higher slopes of Mount Madison, Carter's Dome and up through Tuckerman's Ravine to the summit of Mount Washington (6288 ft.). All these points are accessible from Glen House, New Hampshire, which is the center of the wildest remaining section of the White Mountain region, far enough removed from tin cans and lunch boxes and the blare of auto horns to occasionally see a wild-cat slink along the trail and often raise a covey of grouse in the denser thickets.



*Nomaretus bilobus* Say, probably one of the rarest beetles in eastern North America and frequently confused in collections with the more common *fissicollis* Lec. and *cavicollis* Lec. from the Central States, was taken on Mount Madison at about forty-five hundred feet in heavy timber just below the lichened rocks, and two other specimens at a bit lower elevation in Tuckerman's Ravine under rotted bark. One specimen of the *leonardi* Harr. form of *Scaphinotus viduus* Dej. found its way into our perfumed tin traps in the valley floor, the bait consisting of molasses and assafoetida, a most sickening solution, which I should think any self-respecting *Cychrus* would avoid. A dead mouse added to the brew sometimes makes it even more effective. *Sphaeroderus canadensis* Chd. and *lecontei* Dej. were more abundant companions of the others.

Under the big summit rocks on Mount Washington we took in fair numbers *Carabus chamissonis* Fisch. var. *groenlandicus* Dej.; this is a species from The Labrador. Snow was found at the head-wall of Tuckerman's Ravine and, when marooned on the summit that night, the temperature dropped to twenty degrees; and all this in June east of the Rockies was quite a surprise. The next morning the sprightly *Cicindela longilabris* Say escorted us down the very easy wagon road. We took *Pterostichus* (*Cryobius*) *hudsonicus* Lec. and *Patrobis septentrionis* Dej. (a Palaearctic species) at six thousand feet and lower down *Pterostichus* (*Lyperopherus*) *punctatissimus* Rand., as well as the commoner *Pterostichus honestus* Say, *luczoti* Dej., *coracinus* Newm., *relictus* Newm., etc., and when within five hundred yards of Glen House a single specimen of *Pogonocherus fasciculatus* Deg. (a Greenland longicorn) and *Xylotrechus annosus* Say dropped into the sweep-net.

Along the banks of the Peabody River (West Branch) I found *Platidius rugicollis* Rand., not common in collections, also many other less interesting Carabidae as *Nebria suturalis* Lec., *Pristodactyla advena* Lec., *Trechus chalybeus* Dej., *Loricera coerulescens* L., *Bembidion nitens* Lec. and *scopulinum* Kby.

*Pselaphidae* and *Scydmaenidae* were very scarce, persistent sifting only secured three species; these families seem to dwindle



dle as one goes north. I think this is also true of the western part of the continent.

On the bare, wind-swept rocks of Carter's Dome we took various good Elaterids: *Lepturoides denticornis* Kby., *Ludius spinosus* Lec., *virens* Schrank, *triundulatus* Rand., etc. This type of collecting is much like picking berries, you scramble over the rocks and gather in the crop, with always those superb glimpses of tumbled mountains below you. But atmospheric conditions must be just right, bright sunshine and not too strong a breeze. Some days we found no insects on the summits.

Carter's Notch near the little lake yielded some interesting things: *Scotodes americanus* Horn, *Phryganophilus collaris* Lec. (a rare Melandryid), *Schizotus cervicalis* Newm. and *Pedilus cyanipennis* Bland., sunning themselves on fallen timber. Some skinned poplar logs attracted *Gaurotes abdominalis* Bland., *Anthophilax attenuatus* Hald. and other longicorns. *Dichelonyx subvittata* Lec., together with numerous Buprestids and Elaterids were beaten from oak, spruce and pine. In vain I searched near the type locality for *Cicindela ancocisconensis* Harr.; I think we were too early. Clerids were few, probably for the same reason.

The above is by no means a complete list of species, only the more striking captures being noted, a large number of other boreal Coleoptera having been taken. In the valley the fauna was typically New England and general run; practically all the rarer species were found between three thousand and fifty-five hundred feet elevation.

This tract of the White Mountains is a most interesting region, a lovely sylvan country of running mountain streams clear and cold, where the Pipes of Pan will whistle to you all day long and with peaks high above timber-line to add a certain grandeur to it all, not often found among our eastern hills. The collecting, to be sure, is not bizarre and exotic like the tropics, neither are you subjected to the excessive discomforts of those hot countries. One great advantage, these mountains are almost in our back gardens; a trip of but fifteen hours by rail brings you to their very gateway. So I say to all entomologists, "why not go!"



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