

Later there was such a large flight of *P. nr. intermedius* that about 60 were caught. Half of them were placed in a milliliter of about 90% ethyl alcohol; the other half, in the same amount of linseed oil. Two days afterward a drop of liquid from each vial was placed on the forearm. The alcohol caused no blister; the linseed oil caused a large blister.

All three species of *Paederus* have been mounted, in the same manner, and kept in the same box. The two species that did not cause blisters have molded heavily; the other species shows no trace of mold.

Acknowledgments are made to R. E. Blackwelder of the U. S. National Museum, who kindly made the identifications.

AN ABNORMAL MATING RESPONSE AMONG LAMPYRIDS

By FRANK A. McDERMOTT

Wilmington, Del.

Ordinarily the quite specific flash-and-response mating signal system of the Lampyridae would seem to prevent any extensive cross-breeding. However, they occasionally make mistakes. One of the most peculiar of these was observed near Newark, Del., on June 8, 1951. What was at first assumed to be a female of *Photuris hebes* responding to the flashes of two males of that species, abundant in the adjoining field, in foot-high grass along the roadside, proved to be a very gravid female of *Photinus scintillans*. No males of *scintillans* were seen at the time, which was well in advance of the usual prevalence of this species, but both sexes were abundant in the same locality a month later. It is peculiar that the males of *hebes*, which give a rather greenish flash, should be attracted by the distinctly orange-colored flash of *scintillans*.

A single large male of *P. scintillans* was collected in early May in Wilmington some years ago, and identified by H. S. Barber.



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