

—Mr. Banks exhibited a specimen of *Tetragonophthalma dubia* Hentz, collected in the District of Columbia, which brings a new family of spiders into our local fauna.

—Mr. Schwarz showed the seeds of the sea grape of Florida, *Coccoloba uvifera*. Hitherto no beetles were known to affect this plant, but Mr. Hubbard has recently bred *Pseudomus inflatus* from the seeds at Miami, in semi-tropical Florida. Mr. Schwarz showed specimens of this weevil. Mr. Swingle remarked that the sea grape will shortly become of economic importance.

—Mr. Swingle further announced that the plant-lice in the greenhouses of the Division of Vegetable Pathology of the Department of Agriculture are now being very extensively parasitized by Aphidians. The process of oviposition can be readily observed.

—The first paper of the evening was by Dr. J. B. Smith, and consisted of a discussion of recent papers on Hemipterous mouth-parts by Dr. Leon and Dr. Heymons. Dr. Smith discussed both of these papers at length, showing how, in his opinion, the points brought out by these writers substantiate his position that the Hemipterous beak is a maxillary structure, although both authors worked on the assumption that it is labial. This paper was briefly discussed by Messrs. Cook, Banks, Howard, and Gill, all taking issue with Dr. Smith's conclusions.

—Mr. Banks read the following paper:

TARSONEMUS IN AMERICA.

By NATHAN BANKS.

The genus *Chironemus* was erected in 1875 by Canestrini and Fanzago for some soft-bodied mites found in colonies on leaves after the manner of *Tetranychus*. The name being preoccupied, the authors changed it the following year to *Tarsonemus*. The forms have considerable resemblance to certain Tyroglyphids, but differ from that family in the possession of trachæ, and in having a clavate projection between the legs of the first and second pairs. In 1877 these authors made the genus the type of a new family, placing in it the genus *Pediculoides* (*Heteropus*) and some allied forms. These genera have marked sexual differences, but not a very remarkable life-history. In *Tarsonemus*, the female has a long elliptical body, and the fourth pair of legs is very slender, tipped with two long hairs, and destitute of claws. In the male the body is truncate behind, and the fourth pair of legs is stout and armed at the tips with two stout curved spines.

Tarsonemus lives on the leaves of shrubs and herbs, sucking the juices of the plant. Several species are known in Europe: *T. oryzae* injures rice in Italy, *T. buxi* lives on box, *T. floricolus* occurs on various field plants, and *T. krameri* is found in Germany, in small galls on certain grasses. Mr. E. E. Green has recorded *Acarus translucens*, which is evidently a Tarsonemus, as injurious to the buds of the tea-plant in Ceylon.

Some time ago, Mr. F. A. Sirrine, of the Jamaica branch of the N. Y. State Agric. Exper. Station, sent me for determination some mites found in abundance on the leaves of chrysanthemums in a greenhouse. They proved to belong to Tarsonemus, and, as they differ from the known forms, I propose to describe as

Tarsonemus pallidus, n. sp.

Pale greenish hyaline. Body (♀) elliptical, the mouth-parts slightly projecting in front; at tip it is indented in the middle and a little each side, showing on the under side two lobes, before which is a short transverse line. Legs I and II subequal, rather longer than width of body behind the second pair, a bristle on the outside of last two joints of leg I and one on the inside of last joint, one on outside of the two intermediate joints of leg II; III legs about as long as width of body in middle, one bristle on last joint and three on next to last; IV pair very slender,

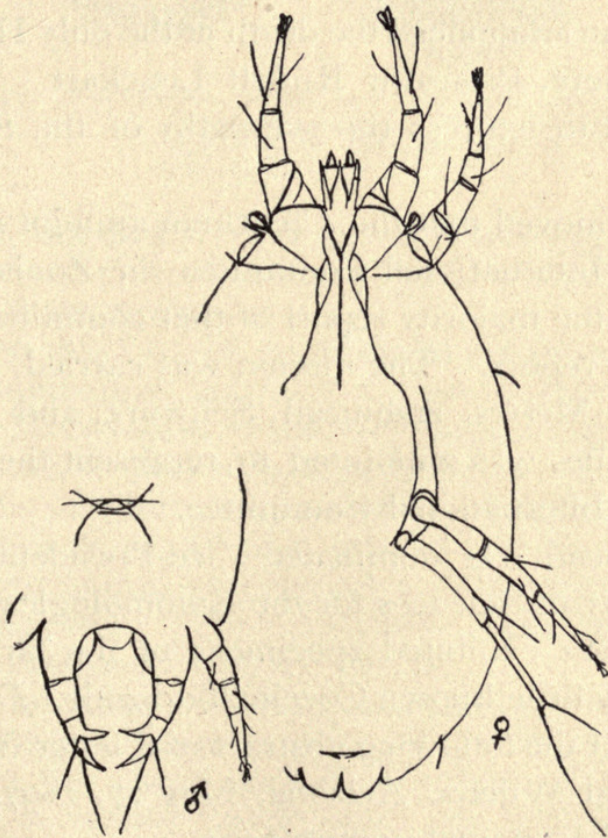


FIG. 17.—*Tarsonemus pallidus*,—enlarged.
(Original.)

scarcely as long as III legs, one long bristle on next to last joint, and two at tip of last joint, the inner one longer than the joint; body with a bristle each side slightly before the middle, and one each side near the tip. Body (♂) rather quadrate; venter with a transverse line on middle, and a yoke-shaped mark; legs I, II, and III subequal, rather shorter and stouter than those of the ♀; IV pair shorter and stouter, at tip of body, tipped with two stout claws, the outer one the larger and longer, and two bristles, the outer one much the longer.

Length ♀ 1.1 mm. ♂ .75 mm.

On leaves of chrysanthemums in a greenhouse near Jamaica, N. Y.

Mr. Cook, under the title of "A New Family of Diplopoda" from Alabama,* described *Desmonus earli*, and the new family Desmonidæ.

At 10 o'clock the Society adjourned.

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MARCH 3, 1898.

Vice-President Gill occupied the chair, and Messrs. Benton, Schwarz, Dyar, Ashmead, Busck, Currie, Heidemann, Stiles, Kenyon, Pratt, Marlatt, and Howard were also present.

The Chairman announced the death of the only Honorary Member of the Society, Professor Rudolf Leuckart. The Secretary was authorized to express the sympathy of the Society to Mrs. Leuckart.

—Dr. Stiles moved that the Chairman appoint a committee to protest to the International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature against the majority report of that committee and in favor of the minority report. The motion was carried, and the Chairman appointed Messrs. Ashmead, Schwarz, and Howard. On motion, Dr. Stiles was appointed to represent the Society at the meeting of the International Committee.

—Mr. Ashmead was nominated Vice-President of the Washington Academy of Sciences for the Entomological Society.

—Mr. Schwarz exhibited specimens of the larvæ, pupa, and imago of a very little known Coccinellid beetle, *Thalassa montezumæ*, and read the following abstract of a letter from Mr. H. G. Hubbard, dated Wilcox, Arizona, May 27, 1897, regarding its food habits and economic importance:

* Included in a paper entitled "American Oniscoid Diplopoda of the Order Merocheta," and published in Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, 1898.



Banks, Nathan. 1899. "Tarsonemus in America." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 4, 294–296.

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