

# Societas entomologica.

„Societas entomologica“ gegründet 1886 von Fritz Rühl, fortgeführt von seinen Erben unter Mitwirkung bedeutender Entomologen und ausgezeichneter Fachmänner.

Journal de la Société entomologique internationale.

Toutes les correspondances devront être adressées aux héritiers de Mr. Fritz Rühl à Zurich-Hottingen. Messieurs les membres de la société sont priés d'envoyer des contributions originales pour la partie scientifique du journal.

Jährlicher Beitrag für Mitglieder Fr. 10 = 5 fl. = 8 Mk. — Die Mitglieder genießen das Recht, alle auf Entomologie Bezug nehmenden Annoncen kostenfrei zu inserieren. Wiederholungen des gleichen Inserates werden mit 10 Cts. = 8 Pfennig per 4 mal gespaltene Petitzeile berechnet. — Für Nichtmitglieder beträgt der Insertionspreis per 4 mal gespaltene Petitzeile 25 Cts. = 20 Pf. — Das Vereinsblatt erscheint monatlich zwei Mal (am 1. und 15.) Mit und nach dem 1. Oktober eintretende neue Mitglieder bezahlen unter portofreiem Nachbezug der Nummern des Winterhalbjahres nur die Hälfte des Jahresbeitrages.

Organ für den internationalen Entomologenverein.

Alle Zuschriften an den Verein sind an Herrn Fritz Rühl's Erben in Zürich-Hottingen zu richten. Die Herren Mitglieder des Vereins werden freundlichst ersucht, Originalbeiträge für den wissenschaftlichen Teil des Blattes einzusenden.

Organ for the International-Entomological Society.

All letters for the Society are to be directed to Mr. Fritz Rühl's inheritors at Zürich-Hottingen. The Hon. members of the Society are kindly requested to send original contributions for the scientific part of the paper.

## Notes on some *Cicindelidæ* from the Southwestern United States.

By H. F. Wickham.

The following remarks apply to species of tiger beetles captured during the summer of 1899, while on a collecting trip through the arid regions of the southwestern portion of the United States of America. The stretch of country visited, embraces a part of three states — Texas, New Mexico and Arizona — and while characterized by a very light rainfall through most of the year, is nevertheless traversed by several streams of fair size, the largest of which is the Rio Grande. The valley of this river is quite broad in some places and occasionally marked by alkaline or saline marshes and broad mud-flats which are much frequented by *Cicindelæ*. In its course from Del Rio to El Paso, the Southern Pacific railroad crosses a high mountainous divide, and in this hilly region several forms of *Cicindela* occur which are not to be met with in the lower valleys. I subjoin a few notes on the habits of each species noticed during my trip.

***Tetracha carolina* Linn.** A beautiful golden-green beetle with yellow-tipped elytra and pale legs. It was frequently seen at street lamps at Del Rio, New Braunfels, El Paso in Texas, and at Tucson, Arizona. During the day it hides under any convenient shelter near the banks of streams or ponds and may be found by turning over drift-wood or slabs of dried mud. It does not fly when disturbed but is a very swift runner.

***Cicindela obsoleta* Say.** This magnificent insect is of a velvety black color, in its typical form, and is the largest of our native tiger beetles. I found

it at Alpine, Texas, during June and July, chiefly on broad flats of bottom land used as pasture. It lurks in dry spots to leeward of some clump of bunch-grass, keeping a close lookout for victim or foe. Readily alarmed, it rises quickly if disturbed and makes off with a long sustained flight which renders it difficult of capture. A green form (*Cicindela prasina* Lec.), frequents the same situations and may be found in immaculate and spotted varieties all running together. These green-ones are quite as wild and as readily startled as the black, and hard to approach, even with the greatest caution. One of them took three flights in trying to escape, which aggregated 140 paces about 420 yards. Occasionally they fly almost straight up into the air for several yards and then suddenly strike off in a long swift flight parallel with the ground surface but high above it, until lost to view. Owing to its size it is a most formidable foe to other insects. I saw one specimen catch an individual of *Cicindela nigrocærulea* which it was apparently about to devour when I threw my net over both.

***Cicindela nigrocærulea* Lec.** This was seen chiefly on low, rather damp ground among short grass which fringed the edges of nearly dry water courses. It was much less difficult to approach than *C. obsoleta*, and its flight was of short duration. But it was awkward work catching them, for they usually ran out under the rim of the net instead of flying up into it and the short vegetation aided in their escape. I met with the species at Alpine and Marfa in Texas and at Deming, New Mexico. A green form was the most abundant although a few blackish-blue individuals were taken.

*Cicindela pulchra* Say, is nearly as large as *C. obsoleta*, of a brilliant reddish bronze color with marginal white markings of varying extent. It was met with somewhat sparingly at Alpine and Marfa on quite barren or very sparsely grown tracts near gravelly roads. As usual with the larger species of this genus, *C. pulchra* is quite wary though not equally so with *C. obsoleta*. Its flight is also much shorter and altogether it is easier of capture.

*Cicindela hornii* Schaupp. This fine and rare beetle was met with occasionally, on the same grounds as *C. obsoleta*. It is ordinarily black in color, but bluish and greenish forms also occurred. It has the habit of lying very close to the shelter of clumps of bunch grass, and when startled takes flight rather clumsily, alighting usually within a short distance and running at once into the grass. This made it easy of capture, but unfortunately it occurred only sparingly.

*Cicindela unijuncta* Casey. A single specimen was found in the nearly dry bed of the Rio Grande at El Paso, Texas, in company with *C. tenuisignata* and *C. sperata*.

*Cicindela hirticollis* Say, occurred once on the banks of the Rio Grande at Del Rio, Texas, in June.

*Cicindela rectilatera* Chaud. A well-known species, common at many points in Texas. It was rather common on river and creek banks at Del Rio and New Braunfels and was also seen on salt marsh land near the former place. It is quite as partial to mud as to sand and is only moderately shy.

*Cicindela tenuisignata* Lec. This insect is rather more than usually slender for a *Cicindela* and may readily be distinguished from its near allies by the long, slender median band. It was not uncommon at Del Rio, on the river bank and on salt marsh land. At El Paso it was abundant in the drying bed of the Rio Grande, about small pools. It may readily be captured, the nature of the soil facilitating the use of the net.

*Cicindela sperata* Lec. Very commonly seen along streams especially in the Rio Grande valley where it may often be found in swarms. It is moderately shy but no difficulty attends capture if ordinary precautions are observed.

*Cicindela viridisticta* Bates. A very few specimens which are doubtfully referred to this species were found about the electric lights in the streets of Tucson, Arizona. Although furnished with wings they made no attempt to fly when pursued.

*Cicindela lemniscata* Lec. Readily known by the small size, brilliant red-bronzed surface, each elytron with a longitudinal white stripe. It is found over a wide extent of territory, since I took it at Del Rio, Texas, and thence at various points as far west as Phoenix, Arizona. It is most frequently seen about the electric lights at night, but during the day may be found running around on hard clayey soil, especially in such spots as have been washed by small streams and afterwards become dry.

*Cicindela circumpecta* var. *prætextata* Lec. I met with this species but once last summer under electric lights at Phoenix, Arizona.

*Cicindela togata* Laf. This is preëminently a species of the salt and alkaline marshes. The great extension of the white markings (which leave only a narrow sutural stripe dark) render the insect much assistance in keeping concealed on the burning white surface of the spots which form its natural home. It was fairly abundant at Del Rio, scattered almost over the whole area of the marsh but most partial to the patches which were whitened by efflorescence of the alkaline salts. It is less wild when on these white spots, as if aware of the protection afforded through the peculiar coloration. I also noticed that they were apparently gradually "reconciled" to the presence of an intruder since their wariness grew less with their familiarity with my movements.

*Cicindela rufiventris* var. *16-punctata* Klug. This species has somewhat the same habits as *C. rectilatera*, though much less common. I noticed it at Tucson, Arizona, and at Alpine, Texas, chiefly in the vicinity of pools with muddy banks. Capture is rather easy, since the flight is neither swift nor long, and the beetle is not immoderately shy. As it frequents open spots rather than those which are overgrown, there is no hindrance to the use of the net.

#### Ein weiterer Beitrag zur Schmetterlingsfauna von Ober-Oesterreich. (Linz und Umgebung).

Von Ferd. Himsel

Oestlich von der Landeshauptstadt Oesterreichs und von dieser zirka 2 Stunden entfernt, erhebt sich der von Ausflüglern und Touristen gerne besuchte „Pfeningberg“ (674 m.). Dessen sonnige Blumenreiche Wiesenabhängen bilden das Ziel gar mancher meiner Excursionen. Auf einer zwar ziemlich

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