

INSECT COLLECTION

By
R. L. Post¹

Since the published report of the history and progress of the NDAC insect collection, Post (1948), 1042 pinned insects, 171 microscope slides, and 4 displays have been added to the NDAC insect collection. Since March, 1948, 10 gifts totaling 437 specimens and valued at \$53.00 have been presented to the insect collection. The donors and the value of their contributions follow:

Mr. David A. Arnott, Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Chatam, Ontario. 14 <i>Tychius picirostris</i> Fal., a clover seed weevil.....	\$ 1.50
Dr. F. Gray Butcher, Extension Entomologist, NDAC, Fargo, N. D. Insects of economic importance.....	\$ 5.00
Kenneth M. Dahl and Royce B. Knapp, USDA Bureau of Ent. and Plant Quarantine, Minot, N. D. 70 pinned insects collected in the Minot area.....	\$ 7.00
Dr. J. J. Davis, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. 25 Codling moth larvae, hibernacula, and adults.....	\$ 2.50
Prof. Ray Hutson, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan. Codling moth larvae and adults.....	\$ 2.50
Dr. W. J. Chamberlin, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon. 4 Machilidae, a family of Thysanura needed for morphological and taxonomic studies.....	\$ 1.00
Mr. Marvin Leraas, Valley City State Teachers College, Valley City, N. D. 96 pinned and determined mosquitoes.....	\$10.00
Dr. A. E. Michelbacher, University of California, Berkley, California. 2 slides and 22 preserved Symphylida, a phylum of Arthropoda	\$ 7.50
Dr. L. M. Peairs, University of West Virginia, Morgantown, Va. 10 egg punctures and 50 adult periodical cicadas.....	\$ 5.00
Mr. W. S. Craig, Wentzville, Missouri, 25 Bagworms.....	\$ 2.50
Dr. O. A. Stevens, Botany Department, NDAC, Fargo, N. D. 44 Diptera and Hymenoptera taken in milkweed studies and determined by authorities at the Division of Insect Identification	\$ 6.00

Approximately 6,000 specimens have been collected by staff members and major students in entomology during 1948 throughout the state. During the winter months this material will be examined and about 10% of the specimens will be retained for the reference collection and classroom use.

Four displays on wheat stem sawfly and sweet clover weevil were prepared for a congressional hearing committee at Washington, D. C. and later displayed at the International Great Plains Conference of Entomologists held at Clear Lake, Manitoba. These exhibits are of a permanent nature and will be of use for field day demonstrations, public exhibits, and classroom instruction.

Value of the Insect Collection: The total value of the insect collection and of the equipment for storing it follow:

Value of insects in collection		Value of Storage System	
33,917 in reference collection	4,582.16	175 Cornell drawers.....	875.00
2,206 microscope slides.....	1,149.75	1,588 Pinning trays for above	153.04
219 Riker display mounts	328.50	4 cabinets for Cornell drawers	800.00
720 transparent-topped display mounts.....	360.00	184 insect storage boxes....	184.00
4 exhibits of insect pests	40.00		\$2,012.04
	\$6,440.16		

¹Associate Entomologist and Curator of the Insect Collection.

Insect records of interest: Insect collection records of particular interest are as follows:

Order Dermaptera, earwigs. In Technical Bulletin 284, Orthoptera of North Dakota by Dr. Morgan Hebard it states that, "No native species of earwig occur in North Dakota, but *Labia minor* (L.) introduced from Europe, has been found in both Manitoba and South Dakota and is probably present in North Dakota as well." The first specimen of this order was collected in North Dakota by Richard C., Leah J., and R. L. Post on August 8, 1948 in the vicinity of Hector Airport, Fargo.

Garden Slugs. Garden slugs were troublesome in several gardens in the Fargo vicinity this year. Specimens were sent to Dr. Henry Pilsbry, Curator of Mollusks, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. He reports that, "The slugs sent are *Deroceras reticulatum* (Muller), the common field slug of Europe, also colonized widely in America and elsewhere so abundant in gardens and mushroom beds here in the east as to be injurious. It has often been referred to as *Agriolimax agrestis*, but this name is now known to pertain to a different species, not known as an immigrant or as a pest. Your specimens are immature (young of the year). Though nearly full in size, the genitalia are not fully developed. If you get any in the early spring they will be more reticulated or flicked with dark color, firmer and sexually mature. I would like to have a few for a state record. None has been reported from the Dakotas."

Tetranychus medanieli. Mites injurious to raspberry and small fruit seedlings in the horticultural plantings on the NDAC plots were sent to the Division of Insect Identification, Washington, D. C. Dr. E. W. Baker who determined the specimens reports, "Second time *medanieli* has been sent in; badly needed for the National Museum collection".

Climbing Cutworms. Climbing cutworms which were defoliating ornamental plants during May in Fargo flower gardens were collected by Lois Stockdale, Richard C., Leah J., and R. L. Post. They were determined by Mr. H. W. Capps, Division of Insect Identification as *Euxoa tessellata* (Harris). Mr. Capps reports that, "This material is rather badly needed for the national collection and we have taken the liberty of keeping it".

Black Flies. Mr. H. J. McLeod collected black flies on June 8, 1948 at Rugby and reported that small chickens were bitten to death by them. These were determined by Dr. Alan Stone of the Division of Insect Identification as *Simulium meridionale* Riley.

Psocids, (Barklice). On the 11th of September bark lice were very annoying as they stuck to the freshly painted surface of a house. As many as 80 to 120 per square foot were counted where they were especially abundant. Specimens collected September 11, 1948 at Fargo by R. C. and R. L. Post were identified by Dr. A. B. Guernsey as *Lachesilla pedicularia* (L.), "a very common and widespread species that frequently occurs abundantly in homes, especially under comparatively damp conditions. New houses in which the plaster has not yet completely dried may be heavily infested, thus the best control is through drying of the premises."

Milkweed Bug. Insects collected by Dr. O. A. Stevens in his milkweed pollination studies were sent to Dr. Muesebeck, in charge of the Division of Insect Identification. Concerning the Fargo record of *Lygaeus kalmii angustomarginatus* Parshley, Det. by R. I. Sailer he reports, "This specimen extends distribution for the subspecies considerably to the northwest of its recorded range."