

Dr. Henri de Saussure, of Geneva, Switzerland, wishes to procure specimens of a small parasite found on the Beaver, and which, he says, is only to be obtained in Canada. It is the *Platyssyllus castori*. We trust that some of our readers may have an opportunity of procuring specimens of this insect, either from hunters or from the dry skins in commerce, in which dead specimens may occasionally be found. They may be preserved in a small bottle with a little brandy.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SIR,—

Dr. Sharp writes me that he finds among our American *Graphoderes fascicollis* Harris, considered by Crotch as the European *cinereus*, several distinct species. Now this form is not uncommon at the North, though both Dr. Horn and myself have very insufficient sets. Could you ask some of our Canadian friends to send me all their specimens for examination? I will return named sets, *all*, if desired, but would like to keep two or three specimens for Dr. Horn and myself. This form has a very wide distribution through Canada to Hudson Bay Territory and California, and I would like to see as many as can be brought together.

JOHN L. LECONTE, M. D., Philadelphia.

DEAR SIR,—

I enclose the wing of a moth which I left with some other choice specimens on my setting-boards while I was absent in Nova Scotia last summer. I thought they were safe enough for three weeks, but you may imagine my dismay when I found on my return a number of *Dermestes* larvæ rioting on my insects. Some were quite destroyed. I at once cleared them off, smeared the boards with tallow and replaced the insects which remained. The larvæ I placed in paste-board boxes. In one I put a bit of tallow, and in the other some worthless specimens. Before twenty-four hours the former had eaten a hole through the box and escaped, and the others matured, passed through the pupa state and in due time became beetles. By this experiment I have made "assurance doubly sure."

Respectfully yours,

CAROLINE E. HEUSTIS, St. John, N. B.

[The wing enclosed is that of *Pheosia rimosa* Packard.—ED. C. E.]