

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, EGYPT
FISHERIES RESEARCH DIRECTORATE

NOTES AND MEMOIRS No. 20

THE FISHERY GROUNDS
NEAR ALEXANDRIA

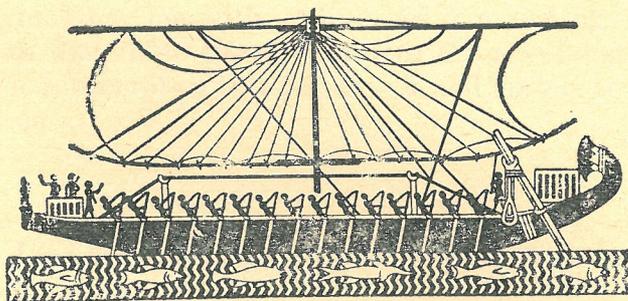
12.—Insecta, Araneida, Pseudoscorpionidea
(with one chart)

BY

ADOLF STEUER

Rovigno d'Istria, Italia

(Translated from German)



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The Fishery Grounds Near Alexandria

12.—Insecta, Araneida, Pseudoscorpionidea

BY

ADOLF STEUER

Rovigno d'Istria, Italia

Professor E. GRIDELLI (Trieste) had undertaken to determine the Coleoptera (10 species) of the insects, collected, except one species, which had been identified by Dr. R. HEBERDEY (Graz), and the Rhynchota (1 species). The Orthoptera (2 species) have been determined by Dr. F. CAPRA (Genova), the Odonata (1 species) by Dr. E. SCHMIDT (Berlin), the Diptera (3 species) by Professor A. THIENEMANN (Plon), the Hymenoptera (1 species) by Mr. B. FINZI (Trieste), the Araneida (3 species) by Professor F. ROEWER (Bremen), the Pseudoscorpionidea (1 species) by Dr. M. BEIER (Vienna). I repeat my heartiest thanks to all these gentlemen. My special thanks are due to Professor E. GRIDELLI (Trieste) who besides furnishing me with references concerning literature, helped me to distribute the material to the specialists and also revised the manuscript of this paper. I had simply to gather the dates received.

I.—List of stations and species taken there

(1) At the outer side of the Pharo, cast-ashore-zone consisting principally of *Caulerpa* and *Codium tomentosum*.

Orthoptera.

Forficulidae. 1 young specimen not to be determined. 29.VIII.1933.

Coleoptera.

- Cafius xantholoma* Gravh. 1 spec. 29.VIII.1933.
Cafius sericeus Holme. 4 spec. 29.VIII.1933.
Saprinus apricarius Er. 2 spec. 29.VIII.1933.
Phaleria bimaculata L. 9 spec. 29.VIII.1933.
Actinopteryx fucicola Allib. many spec., 2.IX.
1933.
Holoparamecus (Tomyrium) Bertouti Aubé, 1 spec.
2.IX.1933.
Anthicus Genei Laf. Several spec. 2.IX.1933.

Hymenoptera.

- Pheidole pallidula arenarum* var. *recticeps* For.
several sp. 2.IX.1933.

Araneida.

- Cyrrba algerina* (Cuv.) 1 (pull.). 2.IX.1933.

Pseudoscorpionidea.

- Garypus beauvoisi* (Sav.). 2 spec. 2.IX.1933.

- (2) Ibid., on the corpse of a cat, 11.XI.1933.

Coleoptera.

- Saprinus semistriatus* Scriba. 2 specimens.
Dermestes vulpinus F. 1 spec.

- (3) Ibid., at the upper margin of the supralittoral zone of
the breakwater, in low vegetation of algae. 16.XI.1933.

Diptera.

- Ephydra* sp.

- (4) Sidi Bichr, Sandy beach, cast-ashore-zone, principally
Posidonia with little *Sargassum*. 9.IX.1933.

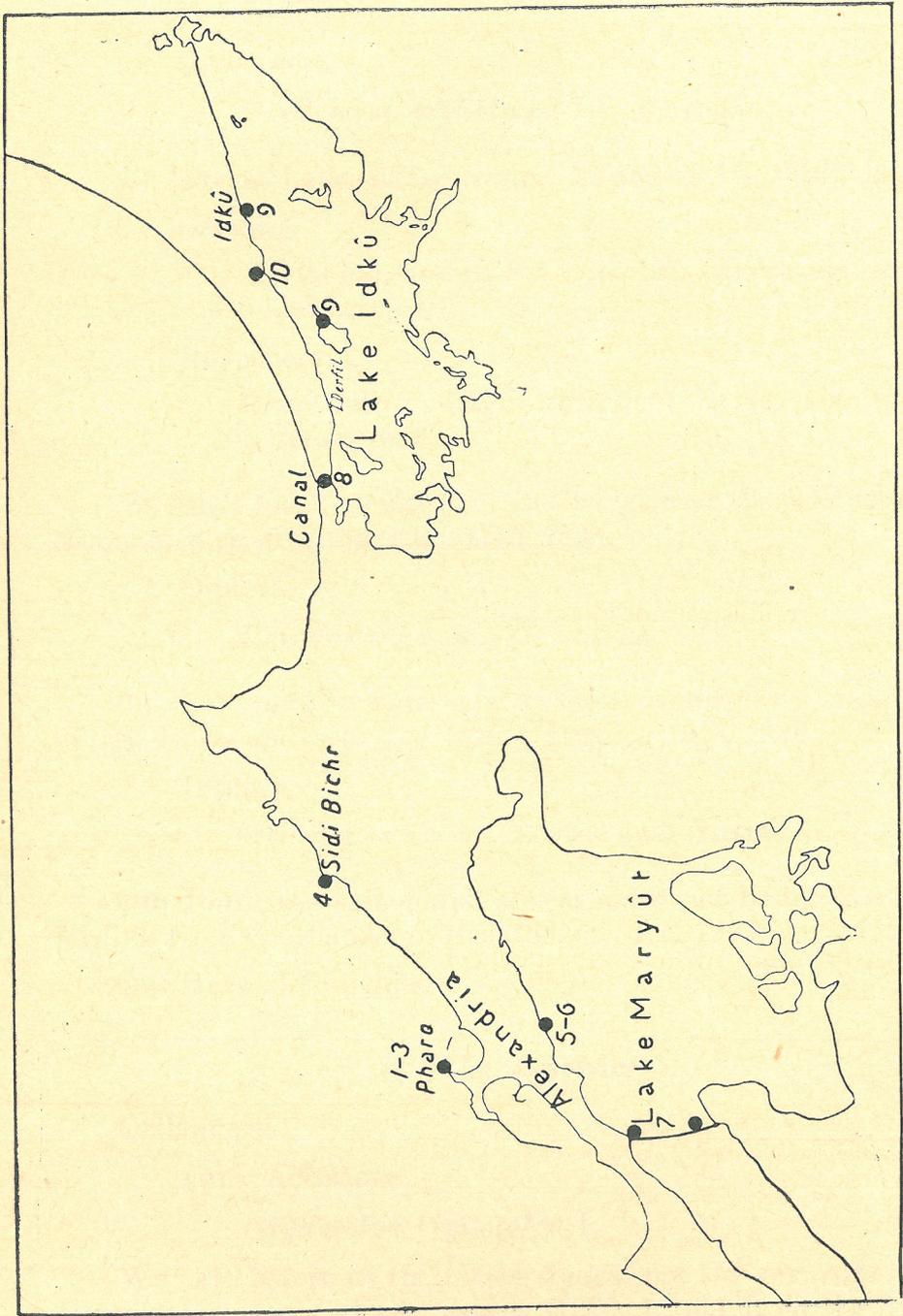
Coleoptera.

- Phaleria syriaca* Reitter. 2 spec.

- (5) Maryut Lake, on sandy shore.

Araneida.

- Xerolycosa nemoralis* (Westr.). 1 ♀ 14.IX.1933.
Tetragnatha extensa (L.). 1 ♂ 28.IX.1933.



(6) Maryut Lake, in damp soil, immediately above the water-level. 28.IX.1933.

Orthoptera.

Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa L. 1 nymph.

(7) Maryut Lake, in free water, 12 and 28.IX.1933.

Odonata.

Agrionidae (sensu SELYS et RIS) larvae not to be determined.

Rhynchota.

Cryptocerata (*Hydrocores*). 1 larva not to be determined.

(8) Edku Lake, on stones of the bridge over the channel that communicates with the sea. 17.X.1933.

Diptera.

Cricotopus s.s. sp. (?) Larvae.

(9) Ibid. in free water and between waterplants, near the village Edku and near the Island Derfil. 10.X.1933.

Diptera.

Cricotopus s.s. sp. Larvae and exuviae.

(10) Ibid. in a salt marsh almost dried out beside the road leading from the channel to the village. 1.X.1933.

One larva of Culicidae.

II.—List of species

Orthoptera.

Fam. Achetidae.

Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa L.

We have before us the forma *typica*, not the var. *cophta* de Haan, which i.g. SEURAT records (1929, p. 52) from the Small Syrte where it had also been found "dans la terre humide" (SEURAT, 1929, p. 26 and 36). That the animals are bound in their occurrence to humidity can also be taken from J.J. BOUNHIOL's investigations (1934).

Fam. Forficulidae.

The collection contained only one larva which could not be determined. SEURAT (1924, p. 50) gives for the seaweeds cast ashore in the Small Syrte the two species so frequent in this biotop :

Labidura riparia Pallas and *Anisolabis maritima* Gené.

Odonata.

Fam. Agrionidae (sensu SELYS et RIS).

The larvae that had been found belong perhaps to the species *Ischnura senegalensis* Ramb. in spite of the difference in the anal appendages which very likely express the difference of age of the larvae; larvae of this genus had not yet been described till now. Beside this species there are some other Agrionids in Lower Egypt, e.g. *Pseudoagrion torridum* Selys according to ANDRES (1928, p. 23) "not uncommon in the Delta and in Upper Egypt." "Nymphs probably *Agrion* sp. (sensu lat.)" had also been found by the Cambridge Expedition (THORPE 1927, p. 447) in Timsah-Lake.

Diptera.

Fam. Culicidae.

In the almost dried out salt marsh mentioned before there had been found after long researches as the only insect one Culi-
cidlarva.

Fam. Orthocladinae.

Cricotopus s.s. sp.

Larvae of Orthocladinae that could not be determined had also been found by the Cambridge-Expedition, namely in the Timsah-Lake (THORNE 1927, p. 448) and by SEURAT (1935, p. 34) at the Algerian coast (Port-aux-Poules).

Fam. Ephydriidae.

Ephydra sp.

The family of Ephydriidae too had been recorded from the Timsah-Lake by the Cambridge-Expedition (THORPE, *ibid.*). *Ephydra macellaria* Egger is named by SEURAT (1929, p. 54) in the list of species of the Small Syrte.

Coleoptera.

Fam. Staphylinidae.

Cafus xantholoma Gravh.

(GRIDELLI 1931, p. 123).

The species is widely spread at the European and at the Mediterranean coasts and is met with on the sandy beach as well as in the marshy lagoons. DURKOP (1935, p. 517, 531) found the species in the Bay of Kiel "besonders an reich mit anderen Tieren besiedelten Stellen" cast ashore in greatest number.

Cafus sericeus Holme (GRIDELLI ibid. p. 124).

Distribution as of the species named above with which it is usually associated, besides said to be found also in North-America (New York), Madagascar and Australia. In the Gulf of Gabes the species of *Cafus* live in *Posidonia* cast ashore and are making hunt for the larvae of halophile Diptera (SEURAT 1929, p. 29).

Fam. Histeridae.

Saprinus apricarius Er.

(Ganglbauer 1899, p. 391).

Up to date the species is known from the Mediterranean only.

Saprinus semistriatus Scriba.

(Ganglbauer 1899, p. 384).

Is a palaeartic-indian species.

Fam. Dermestidae.

Dermestes vulpinus F.

(Ganglbauer 1904, p. 13).

Cosmopolitan.

Fam. Trichopterygidae.

Actinopteryx fucicola Allib.

(Ganglbauer 1899, p. 330).

Lives at the beach only among sea-plants cast ashore, on damp, sandy or muddy coasts of Europe, Africa, America and

Australia. SEURAT (1924, p. 51) calls this very small and very quick beetle one of the insects of the group of necrophags characteristic of seaweeds driven ashore.

Fam. Lathridiidae.

Holoparamecus (Tomyrium) Bertouti Aubé.

(Ganglbauer 1899, p. 851).

Lives also on the beach among sea-plants cast ashore and detritus. Seems to be very scarce and only little is known on its distribution. It had been found at the Mediterranean coast of France (Provence), of Sardinia, at the coast of Cirenaica (Bengasi, see GRIDELLI, 1933, p. 199) and of the Small Syrte (SEURAT, 1929, p. 53). The specimens found in Denmark (Copenhagen) seem to have been transported there.

Fam. Anthicidae.

Anthicus Genei Laf.

The species has been known up to now from the Mediterranean area only (South of Europe, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia and North-Africa).

5. Fam. Tenebrionidae.

Phaleria bimaculata L. (Reitter, 1916, p. 8).

This species known up to now from the European and African coasts of the Mediterranean is new for Egypt. The species is exclusively met with on the damp, sandy beach, among seaweeds and detritus cast ashore.

Phaleria syriaca Reitter (Reitter, 1916, p. 7).

In this species which is also new for Egypt the elytrae are yellow (forma typica).

Hymenoptera.

Fam. Formicidae.

Pheidole pallidula arenarum var. *recticeps* For.

The species is spread all over the territory of the Mediterranean, the subspecies *arenarum* in the eastern part, on the Balkan and in North-Africa.

Rhynchota (Cryptocerata).

The larva in question from the Maryut-Lake could not be determined more exactly. THORPE (1927, p. 448) mentions *Micronecta plicata* Costa from a lagoon of Timsah-Lake.

Araneida.

Tetragnatha extensa (L.).

• The species is widely spread over the whole of Europe, Asia minor, North Africa, on the Azores, in Central—and East Asia and North-America.

Xerolycosa nemoralis (Westr.).

The species has its distribution over Europe to Turkestan, Palestine, Sinai and the lower districts of the Nile.

Cyrba algerina (Cuv.).

This species is found in the south of Europe, on the Canary Islands, in Morocco, Algiers, Lower Egypt, Syria, Mascat, India, Birma, Sumatra and Central Asia.

Pseudoscorpionidea.

Garypus beauvoisi (Sav.).

The species is frequent all over the European and African coast of the Mediterranean among seaweeds cast ashore. According to SEURAT (1924, p. 50) it feeds on *Orchestia* and perhaps on larvae of Staphylinids.

Résumé

In our collection, by no means rich in species, the scarcity of species in the "cast-ashore-zone" is striking. As an example, the Collembola are missing, though I had been looking for them. It is true that this zone is not very well distinguished near Alexandria and may be better populated at other seasons. The "cast-ashore-zone" usually consists of *Caulerpa* washed ashore in which I found 9 species of insects, one spider and one pseudoscorpion; in seaweeds washed ashore I found one beetle new for Egypt. According to the review given by DÜRKOP (1935, p. 525) the beetles *Cafius xantholoma* Gravh. and *sericeus* Holme of the bay of Kiel are halobionts, viz. real "stenök" inhabitants of the "Anwurf", die auf diesen Lebensraum beschränkt sind oder in anderen Gebieten viel seltener sind" (ibid. p. 527), "die auch sonst nur ausschliesslich am Meeresgebiet vorkommen." Accordingly we can also count in this ecological group the following beetles of our collection: *Actinopteryx fucicola* Allib., *Holoparamecus (Tomyrium) Bertouti* Aubé, *Phaleria bimaculata* L., and *syriaca* Reitter, as well as the Pseudoscorpion *Garypus beauvoisi* (Sav.).

Of purely Mediterranean species, that are recorded from all Mediterranean coasts, had been found: beetles: *Saprinus apri-carius* Er., *Anthicus genei* Laf., *Phaleria bimaculata* L., very likely also *Holoparamecus (Tomyrium) Bertouti* Aubé and the Pseudoscorpion *Garypus beauvoisi* (Sav.). In the eastern Mediterranean only there seem to live the beetles *Phaleria syriaca* Reitter as well as the subspecies *arenarum* of the ant *Pheidole pallidula*.

At the steep coast there live in dense algae of the supralittoral zone larvae of Diptera (*Ephydra*), and in the brackish lakes very often insect-larvae had been taken in the free water with the plankton-net. In the Edku-Lake also larvae of Diptera (*Cricotopus*), in the Maryut Lake larvae of dragonflies and of Hydrocores.

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