

The third subfamily is composed of species having an oblong-oval and compressed body. The dorsal fin is elongated, commencing over or before the ventral fins and proceeding backwards at least as far as the commencement of the anal fin; the anterior rays are usually much longer than the others. To this group the name of *Bubalichthyinae* may be given. *Carpiodes* is the typical genus, but it would scarcely be proper to modify that name by the termination indicating a subfamily; we have therefore accepted the above modification of the name *Bubalichthys* of Agassiz proposed for a genus of this subfamily.

Note on Ants in Texas.

BY S. B. BUCKLEY.

The cities of the Cutting Ant (*Myrmica Texana*) are sometimes much larger than those described by me in an article published in the *Journal of the Academy*. During the summer, I have measured some which extended beneath a surface having an average diameter of seventy feet; and in one instance, their town was spread beneath an area of about one hundred feet. Their cellars, from six inches to two and three feet in diameter, are beneath this surface to the depth of from twelve to eighteen feet. The dirt brought up is in the form of a crater, to the edge of which they carry the ground excavated, where it is dropped, and rolls down the sides of the volcano-like hill, which is seldom more than eighteen inches high. The storms level the hills, and new ones are formed on them, until the dirt excavated is sometimes three feet deep. A new city, or when more rooms are made in an old one, has at the surface the appearance of a model volcanic region with isolated craters and mountain ranges. In an old established town the surface of the ground around the main entrances is nearly level, in order that stores for home use may be easily brought in along their roads, extending into the country in all directions. Besides these paths there are underground avenues—as was mentioned in a former paper—whose outer doorways are several hundred feet distant from town, through which most of the grain and leaves used by them is carried. The digging of these tunnels is begun near the lower cellars, from whence they are extended to the outer entrances, around which excavated dirt is seldom if ever found. That they store up food is very probable, nor can there be much doubt of it, since it is well known that they often abstain from work during several days in succession in the winter time. It is also well known, in the region infested by them, that they carry large quantities of grain and leaves into their abodes. I have often seen the margins of their paths covered with segments of green leaves, where they are left to dry, after which they are taken below. The green fruit of the elm is treated in a similar manner. It is true that leaves and fruits are carried into town in a green state, but they surely would not dry a portion unless they wished to preserve it for future use. They do most of their work in the night time, especially in the summer season, when they do not labor during the heat of the day. On one occasion our tent was inadvertently erected near one of their towns, and as we were about to spread our blankets for sleep, we found the ground almost covered with ants. We were driven to platforms for slumber. In the meantime the ants were actively engaged in carrying home fragments of biscuit and other things which had been dropped from our table; other parties of them packed the grains of corn strewed on the ground near the feed box of our mules and horses. I had been told that “cutting ants” could carry the largest grains of corn, but did not believe it; but at that time I saw some big grains move slowly along the ant path, and on close scrutiny could see that said grains were carried on the backs of the little ants. We were encamped near Judge Eastland’s, in Bastrop County, and the next morning the Judge brought over some bits of lead immersed in molasses, to test the strength of the ants. The pieces of lead were three and four times
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larger than the ants, yet the ants being fond of sweet would struggle, until they succeeded in getting the sweetened metal on their backs, when they marched homeward. They are not fond of salt, and would not eat bacon or beans which had been cooked with it.

Among these ants are some big-headed giants who apparently are rulers and superintendents. I have frequently seen them move among the crowd here and there, as if to see that all were on duty. Not working themselves, they urge others to the task. It is said they punish delinquents by biting and shaking them, but I have not seen any such penalty inflicted. It may be that these large ants are the elders whose age exempts them from labor, and entitles them to the respect and submission of the younger of this community.

A gentleman in Bastrop County told me that to preserve his shelled grain and meal from the "cutting ants" it was suspended in sacks by tarred ropes; fresh tar being occasionally added. It is difficult for them to shell corn; hence corn in the ear is rarely disturbed by the "cutting ants." I have not met with these ants north of latitude thirty one degrees, but how far east or west they extend I cannot tell. They are more numerous in the vicinity of rivers and water, but I have never seen their abodes in a bottom subject to overflow.

When I was in Lampasas County last October, at Swenson's Saline, on a hillside, I overturned a large rock, which left exposed a number of the cellars of the stinging ant, (*Myrmica malefaciens*.) In some of these cellars were large quantities of the seeds of the amaranthus and other plants, nicely stored for future use. A gentleman in San Saba County informed me that, after a heavy rain, the "stinging ants," at one of their dens near his wheat field, brought up at least half a bushel of wheat and spread it around their outer door to dry, after which it was again conveyed below.

In this climate, where during the winter cold and warm weather alternately prevail, many species of ants do not become torpid; but in their deep cellars where the cold does not come, they lay up food for use in times of northers, and when the warm weather comes their labors are renewed. It is seldom that they are hindered by cold from work more than a week at any one time.

Descriptions of new Species of *Scolopendra*, in the collection of the Academy.

BY HORATIO C. WOOD, JR.

S. byssina, nobis.

S. saturate viridis, capite castaneo; antennis ? 18 articulatis; dente mandibulari gracile, dentibus labialibus 10, parvis, nigris; superficie ventrali brunneo-olivacea; pedibus gracilibus, antennisque luteolis, postremis articulo basali intus 3, subtus 2 spinis, processu angulari bifido vel trifido; appendicibus analibus lateralibus punctatis, singula spinis apicalibus 3. Long. unc. 3.

Hab. Florida?

S. parva, nobis.

S. viridi-brunnea, segmentis plerumque saturatè viride marginatis; antennis viridibus, 25 articulatis; dentibus 8, nigris, obtusis; pedibus postremis robustis, articulo basali margine haud elevato, intus 5 spinulis, subtus 12-15 spinulis, processu angulari magno, quadrifido; appendicibus analibus lateralibus punctatis, singula spinis apicalibus 4-5 et altero marginale armata. Long. unc. 3.

The first segment of the body is the smallest, the third next. The sutures between sternum and episternum well marked, those between scuta and episcuta barely traceable. The preterminal scuta is very large, its lateral margins in all our specimens are regularly arched. The terminal scuta has a strongly depressed central groove, marking, we suppose, the line of embryonic coalescence of the two primitive scuta.

Hab. Mountains of Georgia. Dr. LeConte.

[Jan.