

of them are already forming cells near the exterior. We cut into a great many of the grubs in getting out these chunks of wood, and I secured several good additional specimens in alcohol.

It is hard to realize the enormous extent and dimensions of the *Dinapate* galleries. Not the largest of our Florida palmettos could support more than three or four of these larvae; they would eat it all up and then die of starvation. If there are 20 or 30 holes in one of the *Washingtonia* palms, one finds the interior entirely eaten out from end to end, and one can follow the galleries, over one inch in diameter for 20 feet up and down the trunk following the grain and without diminishing sensibly in diameter. Then think of the yards and yards of smaller galleries made by the larva while still young. Such extensive and prodigious borings cannot be made in one or two years, and certainly not in any tree trunk of moderate size. There is certainly no other plant here than this *Washingtonia* palm that is capable of supporting a brood of these huge and voracious grubs. Therefore, I do not hesitate to assert that they exist only in the *Washingtonia*, and that they are very certain soon to become extinct. I regard the discovery of a colony as one of the most interesting entomological events of my life and I can assure you that if we breed the imagos this year from this trunk, they will not soon be duplicated by others.

There are some thousands of the trees left, but they are in small groups scattered miles apart in a few of the most inaccessible cañons of the San Jacinto range. Here the beetles are nearly extinct, but it is possible that in Baja California they may survive a few centuries longer. In times past they were abundant here, as evidenced by the numerous old trunks riddled with their

burrows. But the trunks that have fallen in recent years are all free from their attacks, and as the Indians have burned all the trees that are accessible, so that their trunks are now bare of fronds, it must be now quite difficult for the female beetle to find a fit receptacle for her eggs. I am sure now that they do not oviposit in bare trunks or in healthy trees, although it is possible that the beetles kill the tree in which they oviposit their eggs.*

*[Subsequently, in June, Mr. Hubbard forwarded to Washington the pieces of palm wood; and, after some unforeseen accidents and misfortunes, a small number of imago beetles were bred from the wood at the Department of Agriculture during the latter part of August. In October, 1897, Mr. Hubbard received a letter from Dr. Murray, of Palm Springs, stating that, owing to the excessive heat in August, he had been unable to visit Palm cañon, and that, for the same reason, none of his Indians had been willing to undertake the trip. The imago and larva of *Dinapate* have been described and figured by the late Dr. G. H. Horn (Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 13, 1886, Pp 1-4, plate I). While at San Diego, Cala., Mr. Hubbard ascertained that the type locality of *Dinapate wrightii* is Palm Springs, Cala., and not the Mojave Desert, as stated by Dr. Horn. The full-grown larvae collected by Mr. Hubbard are fully twice larger than that figured by Dr. Horn. Mr. W. G. Wright the discover of *Dinapate*, has, as far as known to me, never published anything on the food-plant or habits of this remarkable species.—E. A. S.]

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Mauritia (maw rish ee a) was the creation of the younger Linnaeus who described the *M. flexuosa* of Brazil in 1781. The name commemorates Count Johan Mauritz van Nassau-Siegen (1604-1679), a Dutch field marshal and once governor of the Netherlands West India Company in Brazil. About 16 species of these diversiform fan palms are known to science, all natives of tropical South America with the exception of one found in Trinidad.

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