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ENTOMOLOGY

Edited by Prof. E. G. Titus, State Agricultural College.

WHY WE NAME THINGS.

There exists among all animals certain characters which are not possessed by plants or minerals. Hence we first have three divisions that are known as the Animal Kingdom, the Plant or Vegetable Kingdom and the Mineral Kingdom. By far the greater number of Natural objects that we have occasion to notice we can readily place in one of these divisions or Kingdoms.

In the Animal Kingdom there are so many forms presented to our view that we find it necessary to have some kind of a classification in order to study them properly. It has been estimated that there are now living upon the earth more than a million and half species of animals. The immensity of the problem may now be realized and it is not to be wondered that a system of classification had to be built up as the years went by in order that we may properly place the different forms that have been recognized and described.

Some animals are so simple in form and have such slight changes in their life-history that they are considered as occupying the bottom of the list. These are animals composed of a single cell. A cell is a minute mass of substance known as protoplasm, having life, and the ability to reproduce, to feed and usually to move. The next members of the group have a more complex structure, but are still very simple and so there are arranged groups to contain animals having some characteristics in common; each group as we pass up the list having more and more complex characters; in habits, in form, in its methods of life and in its relationship to surrounding things, than the one just before it. It is impossible to limit these groups absolutely because there are often animals in each group which are either a little too highly developed to be put in the next lower group, or, on the other hand, are so much more complex than the majority of the members in the group in which they are placed as to be almost (but not quite) placed in the group ahead.

Over half way up this list placed above the true worms but just below the true shells, stands the group to which the Insects belong. They are only one of several lesser groups that belong in this large group. Some of the others are almost as well known to most of us as are the insects, for here belong the crayfish and lobsters, the scorpions, the spiders and mites (red spider), and the centipedes and millipedes (thousand-legged worms). All of the animals belonging to this group have the common character of a body composed of several more or less similar rings, some of the rings having upon them jointed legs.

If you will examine a crayfish or a lobster you will find that it has at least five pairs of legs, rarely more, never naturally less. A look at a scorpion will show you four pairs of legs, a spider also has four pairs of legs, but its front pair does not grow large strong claws or pincers as do the crayfish and the scorpion. A mite, our brown mite or red spider, for instance, has four pairs of legs and is very closely related to the spider. The ticks belong with the mites. The centipedes have a single pair of legs to each one of the segments or rings of the body that bears legs. While the millipedes, or thousand legged worms, have two pairs on each ring that has any legs. The centipedes are really beneficial since they feed almost entirely upon insects and other minute animals that live under bark, stones or logs. Some of the centipedes have poison glands which open through the claws of the first pair of legs and can really inflict a rather serious injury, but those species which are large enough to cause much trouble nearly all live in warm regions. The thousand-legged worms are never poisonous, but sometimes cause injury to plants by feeding upon the young and tender shoots.

It can readily be seen that we cannot continue on down in our divisions of the large Animal Kingdom without something more definite than the term group, larger group and smaller group; hence, to each one of the divisions of the kingdom has been applied the term branch and each branch given a distinctive name. The one to which the insects, spiders,