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Journal of Richard E. Blackwelder, West Indies, vol. 1

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On afternoon went back to Station 2 to collect Gyrinids. They are quite abundant whirling about on the water, but the banks are overhung by bushes so it's hard to catch them with a hand dipper. When once the pool is really disturbed they all dive to the bottom. However, I got twelve; also one back-swimmer. There all many large spider-webs criss-crossed over the pools with many-colored spiders. [[margin]] o [[pencil]] o [[/pencil]] [[/margin]]

The bird on the lawn, mentioned on pages 2 and 3, has more of a call than I thought. It can sing almost like a canary though with less variety and less range. It's tail is lined with a white stripe on each side above when spread.

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Tried sweeping along the road, near bananas, at Station 2, but got only a little more quantity than ~~at~~ in the Gardens. Put in with Sta. 1. There were much less spiders. Found one small black leaf - hopper with curved horns on the side of his head.

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Throughout the pastures ~~on~~ at the ~~f~~ Hope gardens are many mango trees. At this season they are covered with fruit and the ground beneath is spotted with the fallen ones.

One continually hears the plop plop of ones falling all around. They seem to ripen very rapidly after falling. During the mango

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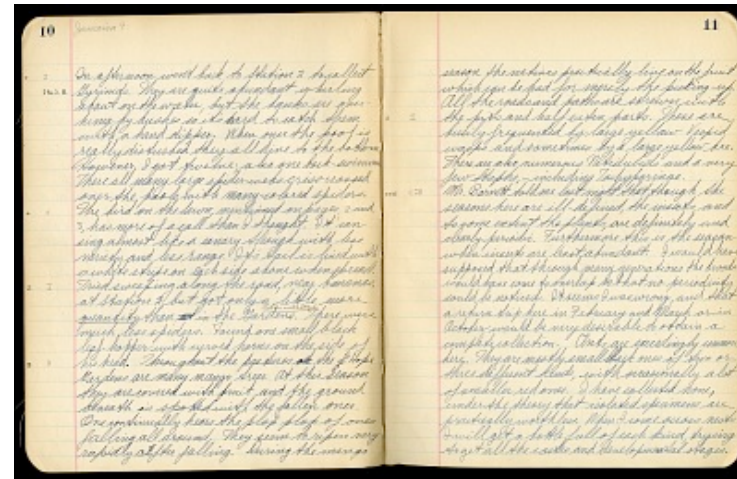
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season the natives practically live on the fruit which can be had for merely the picking-up. All the roads and paths are strewn with the pits and the half eaten parts. These are busily frequented by large yellow Vespid wasps and sometimes by a large yellow bee. There are also numerous Nitidulids and a very few Staphs - including Tachyporinae.

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Mr. Barnett told me last night that though the seasons here are ill-defined, the insects and to some extent the plants, are definitely and clearly periodic. Furthermore this is the season when insects are least abundant. I would have supposed that through many generations the broods would have come to overlap so that no periodicity could be noticed. It seems I was wrong, and that a return trip here in February and March or in October would be very desirable to obtain a complete collection. Ants are exceedingly common here. They are mostly small black ones of two or three different kinds, with occasionally a lot of smaller red ones. I have collected none under the theory that isolated specimens are practically worthless. When I come across nests I will get a bottle full of each kind trying to get all the cases and developmental stages.



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