
A SURVEY OF THE INSECTS
AND RELATED ARTHROPODS
OF ARCTIC ALASKA

Part I

BY
Neal A. Weber

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Order EPHEMEROPTERA

(Mayflies)

Mayflies were not taken on the Canadian Arctic Expedition in either Canada or Alaska and were not seen in 1948 following arrival in the Arctic after mid August. The adults, while with immatures one of the most important foods for fresh water fishes in temperate regions, are so fragile that life on the tundra would seem to be hazardous. They were, however, encountered in July 1949 in Anaktuvuk Pass as subimago females. The life of an average individual is extremely short and the emergence of all adults would appear to take place only at the height of the brief summer.

BAETIDAE

Baetis sp.—Alaska: Anaktuvuk Pass, July 6-8, 1949, at noon along stony creek. (N. A. W.)

Subimago females were occasionally seen on these days and individuals were seen as late as July 23. Members of this order were not reported by the Canadian Arctic Expedition and it is probable that their role as important food for fresh-water fishes in the Arctic is taken over by caddis flies and midges, young and adult. Burk (*personal communication*) believes that these insects overwinter in the Arctic in the egg stage and have an extremely short life in the nymph and adult stages. McDunnough reports mayflies from Baffin Land.

Order THYSANOPTERA

(Thrips)

Thrips are generally inconspicuous insects, noticed usually on flowers, and were not taken by the Canadian Arctic Expedition. Species of at least two genera were taken in the tundra from Pt. Barrow to Anaktuvuk Pass, several times in humus at the base of *Salix*, including *S. glauca* var. *acutifolia*.

Thrips sp.—Alaska: Pt. Barrow, September 1, 1948, males and females in the surface layer of tundra with a temperature of 36° F., the temperature at a depth of four centimeters being 32° F. and below this the ground being frozen; Anaktuvuk Pass, August 25, 30, 1948, on galls of *Salix* and in humus at base of *Salix*. (N. A. W.)