

CORRESPONDENCE.

ACRIDIDIUM AMERICANUM.

In October last, Mr. G. C. Anderson, upon one of his visits to me, enquired what was the largest grasshopper of the country, as he had taken one which had attracted his attention on account of its size. I showed him what we had in the collection of our native species, when he remarked that it was larger and prettier than anything that was there. He said he would bring it up some time. When he did, I was surprised at the striking difference in its appearance from anything I had ever observed. He said I might retain it, which I was very willing to do, and as I could not determine it, I spread its wings and waited till the time of our annual meeting, when Mr. Fletcher at once pronounced it to be *Acridium Americanum*, and the first reported to be taken in Canada. In his Eighth Missouri Report, Prof. C. V. Riley (page 104) thus speaks of it: "It is our largest and most elegant locust, the prevailing colour being dark brown, with a broad pale yellowish line along the middle of the back when the wings are closed. The rest of the body is marked with deep brown, verging to black, with pale reddish-brown, and with whitish or greenish-yellow; the front wings being prettily mottled, the hind wings very faintly greenish with brown veins, and the hind shanks generally coral-red with black-tipped white spines. The species is quite variable in colour, size and marks, and several of the varieties have been described as distinct species." In another place the Professor remarks: "It has a wide range, hibernates in the winged condition, and differs not only in size and habits from the Rocky Mountain locust, but entomologically is as widely separated from it as a sheep from a cow." I would describe the front wings of the specimen before me as being light brown, semi-transparent and mottled with darker brown; the hind wings as hyaline, extremely delicate in texture and beautifully reticulated with dark brown. It measures three and a-half inches in expanse of wing. This species has been reported as causing considerable damage at times on the south side of Lake Erie, from whence probably it has come to us.

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* * The Editor regrets to state that two of his letters to the printers of this Magazine have recently gone astray in the mails. They contained a paper by Mr. McGillivray on "New Hampshire Tenthredinids," the second part of Mr. C. F. Baker's "Studies in Siphonaptera," and a review by Prof. Webster of the last volume of Dr. McCook's "Spiders and their Spinning Work." These articles were intended to have been published in the current number.

Mailed February 4th.