Notes

Biographical Note on Caleb Goldsmith Forshey (1812-81).—A recently-received inquiry regarding C. G. Forshey, together with some plants collected by him at Rutersville, Texas before the Civil War, prompts this brief note regarding a many-sided and competent man of science, who spent a generous share of his life in scientific work and science-teaching in the Old Southwest. I was not aware (until this inquiry came) how scanty was the accessible information on Forshey. An engineer, naturalist, founder of the ante-bellum Texas Military Institute, Forshey collected in Texas many sorts of naturalia for the Smithsonian Institution (1855-61) and the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia (1843+). He published, or was concerned in the publication of, a series of admirable papers on the geology and hydrography of Louisiana, the physics of the Mississippi River, and the geology of the Mississippi delta. He was chief engineer of the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad of Texas (1853-55), and designed and superintended the construction of the Galveston West-bay bridge.

Caleb Goldsmith Forshey was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He attended Kenyon College (ca. 1831-33) and the U.S. Military Academy (1853-36), but did not graduate. He was professor of mathematics and civil engineering in Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi (1836-38); and subsequently was employed on numerous engineering works, especially in Louisiana and Texas. In 1855 he founded at Galveston the Texas Military Institute (which was moved to Rutersville, Fayette County, 1856-61). Here he did some very good science teaching under very discouraging conditions [see (mss.) Spencer F. Baird, Letters Received, vol. 11, 1856/8, folios 124-34; and vol. 16, 1859, folios 550-51, in the archives of the Smithsonian Institution]. In the Civil War he served as Lieutenant-colonel with the Engineering Corps, C.S.A. (on James River defenses, 1861-2; and with Generals Hébert and Magruder in Texas, 1863-65). He worked on Humphreys & Abbot’s “Report on the Physics and Hydraulics of the Mississippi River...,” 1861 [see Appendix, pp. cii-ciii; cxxv-cxxvi]. After the War he was employed on railroad construction in Texas; in Government work at the mouth of the Mississippi; and (1874-5) in the U.S. Engineering Corps on the Red River and Galveston Bay. He died (1881) at Carrollton, Louisiana, where 30 years before he had measured the flow and discharge of the Mississippi River.

Forshey was one of the founders of the New Orleans Academy of Science (1863) and a vice-president. He published scientific papers in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, the New Orleans Commercial Appeal and Commercial Times, DeBow’s Review, Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Silliman’s Journal, Bulletin of the Washington Philosophical Society, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and elsewhere. (See, also, Meisel, 1924-29, vol. 3; and International Catalogue of Scientific Papers.)

He did some excellent collecting of naturalia, especially at Rutersville, in Fayette County, Texas; Isaac Lea described from his collections the following “new species” of mollusks, several of which still are considered valid as species or varieties. Among the Unionidae, or fresh-water mussels, the following: Unio macrodon, U. rutersvillen-
sis, *U. forseyi*, *U. speciosus*, *U. bealei*—found in Fayette County—and *U. riddellii*, *U. chunii*, and *U. lincecumii* from Dallas; and (among the gastropods), *Succinea forseyi* and *Physa forseyi* from Rutersville. His correspondence with Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution shows also many other groups of animals represented in the collections sent, as well as plants. He also was actively interested in bringing to Texas improved breeds of livestock. In January of 1859 he bought from John T. Andrews of West Cornwall, Connecticut, a flock of “New Oxfordshire” [Oxford Down] sheep for the improvement of the Texas breeds; and these are mentioned (American Agriculturist, vol. 18, p. 77, 1859) as passing through New York City. A similar shipment to Mr. A. Phillips of Victoria, Texas, also passed through at the same time (3 Feb., 1859). BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS: ACAB; E. L. Jewell, *Crescent City Illustrated*, New Orleans, 1874, pp. 232-39, portr.; Lamb, III, 152, 1900. In Charles S. Sydnor’s *A Gentleman of the Old Natchez Region*: Benjamin L. C. Wailes, 1938, there are, passim, references to Forshey, chiefly in connection with Jefferson College.—S. W. Geiser

A MOLE, *SCALOPUS AQUATICUS* (LINNAEUS) FROM TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS.—Little is known of the distribution of moles in north Texas. Davis’s paper on the moles of Texas (Amer. Midl. Nat. 27:380-386, 1942) is, I believe, the only account of the moles in this area. No specimens from Tarrant County were reported in this publication, nor have there been subsequent reports of moles from Tarrant County.

Mr. Dilford C. Carter (May 27, 1956) took one specimen, a male, from a sandy field about four miles west of Grapevine, in the northeast corner of Tarrant County. This specimen has been placed in the permanent collections of the Department of Biology of Southern Methodist University. It is of a pale gray color with a silvery sheen. The base of the nose and the wrists are faintly ochraceous. Measurements, in millimeters, are as follows: total length, 141; length of tail, 32; length of hind foot, 19; occipitonasal length, 32.5; mastoid breadth, 17.4; depth of skull, 9.8; length of maxillary tooth row, 11.4.

The features of this specimen correspond most closely with those listed by Davis (op. cit.) for *Scalopus aquaticus intermedius* (Elliot).—William B. Stallcup

INDIGOHERA MINIATA Ort. var. *leptosepala* (Nuttall) Turner, comb. nov.—*I. leptosepala* Nutt. ex T.&G., Fl. N.A. 1: 298. 1838. Because of delays in obtaining a copy of the original description of Ortega’s species, this new combination was not included in “New Names for Texas Leguminosae,” Field & Lab. 24: 15-17, 1956.—B. L. Turner

A FURTHER NOTE ON TEXAS SPECIES OF *DYSSODIA* (COMPOSITAE).—Since sending in for publication my paper on Texan species of *Dyssodia* (Field & Laboratory, vol. xxiv, pp. 60-69), I have seen the Dyssodias at the Herbarium of the University of California (UC), Dudley Herbarium (DS), and United States National Herbarium (US). I have now seen typical material of *D. aurea* var. *polychaeta* (Wright 360, partim, !DS, US), and of *D. tephroleuca* (Clover 1825 !US). Wright 364 (!DS), upon which Gray’s description of *D. Hartwegii* is partly based, is *D. pentachaeta*, as I suspected. *Thymophylla Pringlei* Rydb., based on Pringle 1022 (!US) turns out to be a synonym of *D. Hartwegii*. The synonymy of *D. pentachaeta* is confirmed by study of several isotypes: *D. Griffiths:F. S. Earle 622* (1UC), Schaffner 328 = *754* (1UC, US), and Parry & Palmer 515 (!US). That *D. Thurberi* and *D. Belenidium* are conspecific is borne out by study of ample South American material.—Marshall C. Johnston