

INTRODUCTION.

Nezara viridula L. was first described by Linnaeus in the *Systema Naturae* Ed. 10, p. 444, under the name *Cimex viridulus*. The species has now been placed by Amyot and Serville in the genus *Nezara*, having previously been given various names by different authors. The synonymy is listed by Van Duzee (*Catalogue of the Hemiptera north of Mexico. Univ. California Tech. Bull. Vol. II*)

The insect bears a number of common names. Drake gives "Green bug", "Tomato and Bean bug", "Southern green plant bug", "Pumpkin bug", "Green soldier bug", while Wolcott states that the name "Mary Grudgful" is locally used in Jamaica.

The systematic position of *Nezara* is in the Pentatomini of the Pentatomidae. A very closely related genus is that of *Acrosternum*, of which the three species, *marginatum*, *hilare*, and *pennsylvanicum*, were usually regarded as species of the genus *Nezara*, until Bergroth (1914), guided by the structure of the male genitalia and the osteolar canal defined the genus *Acrosternum* as distinct from *Nezara*, with which it had been previously regarded as synonymous. *Viridula* seems to be the only New World species in the genus *Nezara*.

The generic is given by Amyot and Serville as being "de l'hebreu 732, azar, ceinture, 733, nezar, ceint d'un cordon, à cause de la carène ventrale qui ressemble à un cordon." The specific name *viridula* is from the Latin, meaning "green".

Three varieties are recognised in the literature on this species, these being *smaragdula* Fabricius (*L. smaragdus* - emerald), *hepatica*, Horvath (Gk. ἥπαρ - liver), and *torquata* Fabricius (*L. torquatus* - adorned with a neck-band)

The variety *torquata* Fabricius is described as being marked with yellow on the head, excepting a small distal green area, the anterior portion of the thorax, and the connexivium. As in the variety *smaragdula*, three yellow spots are present at the base of the scutellum.

The variety *hepatica* Horvath is to be distinguished by the general colour of the body being greenish brown, while the anterior portion of the head and pronotum, the scutellum towards the base and a part of the meso-thoracic wing are pale yellow.

The variety *smaragdula* Fabricius is uniformly green over both

surfaces of the body, with the exception of (1) three small yellow spots developed at the base of the scutellum, (2) a median white line along the carina formed by the abdominal sterna, and (3) the fuscous tarsi, rostrum, and antennal segments 4 and 5. Of the above only the variety *smaragdula* has been found in Trinidad by the author, and only this variety is to be found under this species in the I.C.T.A. Entomological Collection.