the weathering having been almost completely eliminated. These are just a few out of numerous instances where shells and fossils have afforded data useful in the study of the sorting power of wind and water. Incidentally, they suggest the explanation of occasional occurrences of "pockets" and "streaks" of fossils in the rocks which would otherwise be very puzzling.

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## A TERRESTRIAL AMPHIPOD IN THE UNITED STATES

A TERRESTRIAL amphipod, *Talitrus alluandi,* has been found in abundance in a greenhouse in Ohio. Besides its natural habitat, which appears to be the Indo-Pacific Islands, it has also been recorded from several localities in Europe, where it apparently has been carried and has become established locally. The most recent of these reports is one by K. Stephensen in 1924 on the finding of this organism in a greenhouse in Copenhagen.

The fact that the specimens under consideration were found in large numbers in a greenhouse in Columbus, Ohio, would lend support to the idea that this form has likewise been transported to this country and has survived for more than two years in an environment which simulates tropical conditions.

The specimens, measuring from two to four and a quarter millimeters in length, were found in great abundance in a greenhouse of the Fifth Avenue Floral Company, at Columbus, Ohio, by Mr. H. Walker, of the Ohio State University, and were given to the writers by Dr. Raymond C. Osburn. Search has been made in many other greenhouses but without success. They have, however, subsequently been cultured successfully in the laboratory at Cleveland.

It is believed that this is the first record of a completely terrestrial amphipod found within the United States. *Talitrus alluandi* was described by Chevreux in 1901, in the *Mem. Soc. Zool. de France,* 14: 389–393.

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## PLANT LICE PUMPING IN UNISON

THE phenomenon, "flashing of fireflies in unison," discussed on page 132 in the January 31 and on page 537 in the May 23 issues, prompts me to report some observations of the curious behavior of aphids. These insects appear to lift their bodies simultaneously in the act of feeding, sucking the sap of a host plant. Following the theory described in the second discussion mentioned above, the insect on seeing his neighbor rise for inspiration or pumping may himself rise to keep in step and thus all in a like way tend to synchronism. But apparently incidence of light is not a motive, as the writer has placed a cardboard screen around the sides of an individual feeding in proximity to many others and this individual kept in step right on with the others, and even when there was a pause all along the line he paused too, and on recommencement of the lifting or inflating of their bodies in the act of sucking again, the screened individual was found to be in step as before, although he could not see any of them. It was noted that a colony of the insects rising in unison on a branch somewhat removed from another collection rising in unison on another branch did not coincide in moment, *i.e.,* each individual colony rose as a man, but did not rise in unison with the other colony.

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# SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

## A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS AND RANGES

THE Acting Secretary of Agriculture recently approved a National Forest regulation which marks a new epoch in the forest-research work of the United States. The regulation is as follows:

> The forester shall determine, define and permanently record a series of areas of national forest land to be known as experimental forests, sufficient in number and extent adequately to provide for the experimental work necessary as a basis for forest production or forest and range production in each forest region, these areas to be dedicated to and used for research; also where necessary a supplemental series of areas for range investigations to be known as experimental ranges; and a series to be known as natural areas sufficient in number and extent adequately to illustrate or typify virgin conditions of forest or range growth in each forest or range region, to be retained in a virgin or unmodified condition for purposes of science, research and education; and a series of areas to be known as primitive areas within which will be maintained primitive conditions of environment, transportation, habitation and subsistence, with a view to conserving the value of such areas for purposes of public education and recreation. Within any areas so designated, except for permanent improvements needed in experimental forests and ranges, no occupancy under special use permit shall be allowed, or the construction of permanent improvements by any public agency be permitted, except as authorized by the forester or the secretary.