

EDITORS: PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION IN LINE 5.

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

INSECTS AND WIND

The complex relations of wind to the activities of insects have been discussed at some length by W. E. Hurd, of the U. S. Weather Bureau. Though in general insects travel involuntarily with strong winds, sometimes to great distances, there is much evidence that some kinds, particularly butterflies, habitually fly against the wind. Thus migrating Pierids of Ceylon are said to fly invariably <sup>against</sup> directly/or quartering to the monsoon. Insects of many kinds fly at times against the wind in seeking food located to the windward, the odor of which is brought to them by the wind.

"Air movements of gale force," says Mr. Hurd, "are always a determining factor in the flights of all insects, and certain types may be swept by hurricanes from one island to another, or to a mainland where they had not previously appeared. After the southwest gales of August 26, 1901, numbers of the 'blue page' moth of Trinidad were found to have been blown to Barbados, a distance of 160 miles, and some to Dominica, still more remote. The Argentine pampero at its burst often carries swarms of insects along with it. Sometimes great numbers of calosoma beetles, or, in particular, the light blue dragonflies which inhabit the pampas, are found in advance of the westerly wind in La Plata and elsewhere, instinctively seeking to escape the tempest, and when caught by it are tumbled in down-like confusion by the 70 or 80 mile gale."

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