

A PLIOCENE INSECT DEPOSIT IN TEXAS. — A few years ago numerous insects were found by Dr. Roy Reinhart of Miami University in a shale exposed along the Rita Blanca Creek near Channing, Texas. My attention was called to these fossils by Mr. Jack T. Hughes, Curator of Anthropology at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas, who kindly sent some of the museum specimens to me for my examination.

In May of 1957, with Mr. Hughes, and Mr. James A. Corbitt and his sons of Dalhart, Texas, I spent a day collecting at the deposit. The insects occur in several beds of thin shales, which resemble closely those at Florissant, Colorado, and which were apparently formed of volcanic ash that had fallen into a small fresh-water lake. The insects are not nearly so numerous at the Channing deposit as they are at Florissant, however, and, in general, they are not nearly so well preserved. Small flies and beetles are the most numerous types of insects in the shales, but nymphs of dragonflies are not uncommon. Occasionally clusters of nymphs, comprising six or more specimens, can be found. The remains of other organisms, including small fish, also occur in the shale.

The deposit has been generally regarded as being of Late Pliocene age. Extensive collecting might result in enough good specimens to justify a systematic study of the insect fauna. It would certainly be interesting to make a detailed comparison between the fauna of this Pliocene Texas deposit and that of the Early Miocene (or Late Oligocene Florissant deposit. — F. M. CARPENTER, Harvard University.



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