

Adults of both sexes are most erratic in their movements, tearing around in all directions and then suddenly becoming motionless. A beetle will cover a territory for a considerable period like a hound on a scent and then suddenly dart off to another piece of wood or down a larval or a termite burrow, to emerge shortly and repeat the performance. Adults apparently need no food. One or two males will follow a female for long periods. Eggs are laid singly or in small groups, as far down into crevices as females can place them with their considerably extendable ovipositors. The eggs are 1 to 1.2 mm. long, white, long-oval, slightly curved or straight-sided. They hatch in from 5 to 7 days and the white larvae, 1.5

to 2 mm. long wander for days on the surface of sodden wood before boring in. Of two females dissected, one was nearly spent and yielded 35 eggs while the other, heavily gravid, contained 215 eggs of a uniform size suggesting that the full quota must be laid in a relatively short time.

This record shows that the wharf borer is spreading in Vancouver and may turn up in sodden timbers in the underpinnings of buildings which have poorly ventilated or completely saturated air spaces under them. Since the larvae feed only in sodden, rotting timber, the beetle is an indication of decay and not a cause of it.—G. J. Spencer, Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia.

A further note on *Laelius* sp., Hymenoptera: Bethyridae, a parasite on the carpet beetle *Anthrenus pimpinellae* Fabr.

In Vol. 39 of the Proceedings of our Society I published a note with approximately the above heading except that the specific name of the beetle was given as *scrophulariae*, after an identification made for me by the late Ralph Hopping. At that time I had not taken *A. scrophulariae*, the Buffalo Carpet beetle, in this province, but within the last few years it has become established in homes in Mission and Haney. It may commonly be taken on white flowers at Mission, in summer.

From Hinton's book (Hinton, H. E. A monograph of the beetles associated with stored products. Vol. 1, Brit. Mus., 1945), I found that the beetles which Hopping called *A. scrophulariae* showed the colour patterns of *A. pimpinellae* var. *lepidus* Lec. Later when George Hopping arranged our beetles, he placed the specimens under *A. occidentis* Csy.

This beetle is a scavenger in birds' nests, the larvae feeding upon feathers and the scales from pin-feathers left when fledglings have flown. I have reared them from cliff swallows' nests in the Chilcotin, and from tree swallows' and mountain blue birds' nests at Kamloops. Once at Quesnel I saw the blossoms of a small hawthorn swarming with beetles which had apparently just emerged from the cliff swallows' nests, which plastered the ends of a barn close by. The species is found at the Coast and is widespread in the Interior: I have specimens

from Quesnel, Riske Creek, Kamloops, Nicola, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Trinity Valley, Merritt, Spence's Bridge and Victoria.

In 1956 the Department of Zoology received several cabinets of bird and mammal study skins, bequeathed to the University by the late James Wynne of Enderby. One of the boxes of about 12 cu. ft. capacity held some loose bird skins and from the bottom of this box I collected 11 pupal cases of *A. pimpinellae* of which 9 contained the mass of tight silk threads, indicative of *Laelius* parasitism, bulging above the level of the old larval skin in which pupae of dermestids typically occur. In most cases, a short emergence tube of the parasite extended up from each mass, opening either forwards or backwards. Loosening the silk with needles revealed from two to four others, underneath each tube, indicating that each beetle pupa had supported from three to five parasites. This is the highest degree of parasitism by *Laelius* that I have encountered, namely nine out of eleven pupae or about 80 per cent. Enderby is between Armstrong and Salmon Arm in the North Okanagan, but according to Dr. O. Peck (Proc. Ent. Soc. B.C. 39: 21-22, 1942) Whittaker's type of *occidentalis* was taken from a window in Chilliwack, on the lower mainland. There is hope, therefore, that this parasite or a closely related species of *Laelius*, may become abundant in Vancouver where *Anthrenus verbasci* (L), the varied carpet beetle, is a household pest of the first magnitude.—G. J. Spencer, Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia.