

Professor Riley said that he had personally examined this and other large insect collections in Europe, and was of the opinion that the British Museum collection was richer and fuller and of more value to the student than any other. Probably none of these collections have increased more rapidly than that of the U. S. National Museum, but this was solely due to the richness of material and the great activity among collectors. Unfortunately the Museum seems to have no funds for the purchase of material and he was constantly under the necessity of declining valuable additions offered, from lack of means to purchase them. Therefore the collection was poor in exotic material and American students were, as a consequence, under the necessity of visiting Europe whenever they wished to do any thorough work—a state of things which is greatly to be regretted, and which we should endeavor to remedy.

Mr. Schwarz said that considering the age of the public collections of the United States they compared very favorably with the much older collections of the European countries.

In answer to a question by Mr. Howard, Prof. Riley said that salaries given the Official Entomologists or Curators of entomological collections at Berlin are very much lower than at the British Museum or in this country. The subject of salaries and the relation of these to living expenses was discussed by Messrs. Fernow, Ashmead and others.

Prof. Riley, under the head of "Miscellaneous Notes," read short papers, as follows:

#### ON THE INSECTS AFFECTING THE AGAVE.

BY C. V. RILEY.

I have recently received from a valued correspondent in Texas a series of insects obtained from the Century Plant, or Agave. They were all obtained from the flower-stems of *A. dasylirium*, the specimens, which I exhibit, including the following:

1. An interesting Cossonid, which evidently forms a new genus and species. I sent the specimen to Dr. Horn, who says it is certainly not one of the described species. He further writes that it appears to be congeneric with the species referred by him with some doubt to *Amaurorhinus*

2. A Coleopterous larva (Buprestidæ) with its imago, *Thrincopyge alacris*.
3. An interesting Dipterous pupa belonging to the Bombyliids.
4. An Ichneumonid in all stages, *Labena grallator*, which was undoubtedly parasitic upon the Buprestid, *Thrincopyge*.
5. The cocoon of a Mutillid.
6. The male of *Elis quadrimaculata*, showing some slight variation.

#### A PROBABLE MICROGASTER PARASITE OF ELEODES IN THE IMAGO STATE.

BY C. V. RILEY.

The number of Microgasters which affect Coleoptera is comparatively small. In Marshall's Monograph of the Braconidæ the following species are mentioned as affecting insects of this order, though there is no record as to whether they have been reared from the larva or the imago.

Apanteles hoplites	on	Rhynchites betuleti.
" "	on	Lina tremulæ.
" breviventris	on	Orchestes quercus.
" impurus	on	Anthonomus pomorum.
" lacteus,	on	" "
" sericeus,	on	Hypera variabilis.

In each case it will be noted that these parasites belong to the genus *Apanteles* in the Microgasters. I present a specimen of *Eleodes suturalis*, recently received from Mr. C. E. Ward, of Belvidere, Neb. He was out collecting on the 27th of April and found this specimen in the roadway. Benzine did not kill it, so he brought it home alive, keeping it in a cigar box. The next night Mr. Ward found that the edges of the cigar box were lined with cocoons, which I believe to be those of some Microgaster, and which are also exhibited. The habit here illustrated of spinning cocoons in a linear manner along the angles of the box is doubtless exceptional. If my surmise prove true, I believe this is the first parasite of this sub-family recorded in this country as affecting a mature beetle, as the Microgasters ordinarily affect Lepidopterous larvæ. A dissection of the beetle showed that the contents of the abdomen had been pretty well absorbed, and when compared with a normal pinned specimen taken from the cabinet they confirmed the accuracy of Mr. Ward's statements.