

thenogenesis Among Bees," by Cav. Andrea de Rauschenfels, editor of "L'Apicoltore," of Milan. The Dzierzon theory regarding parthenogenesis among bees having been questioned by several practical bee-masters of Germany and Italy, the zoological department of the University of Freiburg, under the direction of Prof. August Weismann, undertook to make careful microscopic examinations of the eggs of queen bees of the species *Apis mellifera*. Of 29 eggs laid in worker-cells traces of fecundation were found in 23, while 94 eggs laid in drone-cells presented no such traces; in another instance among 62 eggs taken from worker-cells not one was found that did not show fecundation, and of 272 eggs laid in drone-cells one only showed a vestige. Even when, as a test of the accuracy of the microscopic examinations, the labels on material had been purposely exchanged, the results were equally striking and decisive, so that Prof. Weismann concludes: "That it may be taken as proved that the eggs deposited in drone-cells *are normally not fecundated*, while on the other hand those deposited in worker-cells *are always fecundated* and that, therefore, the theory of Dr. Dzierzon remains unchanged."

—The first paper was by Mr. Heidemann, and was entitled:

#### NOTES ON BELONCHILUS NUMENIUS SAY.

By O. HEIDEMANN.

In collecting on the trees *Platanus occidentalis* planted on streets near Brightwood, June 10 last, I found the underside of leaves covered with the larvæ of a hemipterous insect in its different stages of development, and was able to identify it at once by the characteristic long and slender rostrum, which reaches to the apex of abdomen, as *Belonchilus numenius* Say, a Lygæid. A week later I secured adult specimens also in abundance on the same trees.

It surprised me to find the insect infesting these planted trees, since it is not recorded as living on sycamore, or as being very abundant; it has been considered as quite rare, and I have in former times found but few specimens by sweeping over the fields.

The insect was originally named by Thomas Say, *Lygæus numenius*.\*

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\*New Harmony, Indiana, December, 1831. (Reprinted in Say's Entomology of North America, LeConte, I, p. 331.)

Later, Prof. P. R. Uhler placed the species in a new genus and redescribed it as *Belonochilus numenius* Say.\*

The following November, Mr. J. Kotinsky showed me some sycamore fruits taken at Eckington, November 12, on which he had observed the young larva of a bug. The larva proved to be identical with those I had found previously in early summer on the same kind of trees.

On December 8, I took from the sycamore trees, on which I had collected the insect in the month of June, a number of the fruits, which dangle so conspicuously from long peduncles attached to the bare twigs, and I found on nearly every one of them a colony of the larvæ. The ball-shaped fruit, known to botanists as a head, is composed, as is well known, of the ovaries containing the ovules or seeds. In the crevices or interspaces among the ovaries gathered on the head, the larvæ hide, head downward, in a dormant state, congregating conspicuously on the underside of the fruit, probably adopting this place as the best shelter against the severity of the weather.

Upon warming the fruit of the sycamore with my hand the bugs hidden on it soon recovered from their dormant state and crawled around actively. The larva can hardly be detected in its hiding place, because it matches in color perfectly with its surroundings.

While *Belonochilus numenius* Say may live also on other food-plants, these observations at least establish the fact that it lives on sycamore, and also that it has two annual broods, the fall brood hibernating in the larval stage on the underside of the globose heads.

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Mr. Kotinsky, in discussing the paper, said that the larvæ on these heads, when exposed to the rays of the sun, would move around, apparently seeking to find shelter.

—Dr. Howard's paper, entitled "Some Additional Mosquito Notes," then followed. It consisted of the most interesting facts taken from the large mass of information on this subject which has accumulated, through correspondence and otherwise, since the publication of his "Notes on the Mosquitos of the United States."†

These additional notes are soon to be published. The paper was discussed by Messrs. Gill and Hay.

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\*Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XIX, pp. 393, 394.

† Bulletin No. 25, New Series, Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1900.