

new genus of Braconidæ, which he had recently discovered, which possessed very long palpi. Such genera seemed to occur in special number in certain regions of the West, and he instanced several which he had seen from Colorado. Mr. Schwarz replied that in *Telegeusis* the character occurs most probably only in the male, and that these long palpi have a sensitive function. The female is unknown, and probably larviform. The modification of the terminal joint of the palpi into a long organ occurs in many genera, and is difficult to explain.

—Mr. Marlatt, apropos to the remark made by Mr. Ashmead at the last meeting concerning the absence of oak galls on the American oaks in the Kew Gardens, stated that it would be interesting to know whether galls occur on the European oaks in these same gardens, and that, as a matter of fact, galls are rare in arboretums or cultivated grounds, instancing the oak group on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture. Wherever the ground is cared for and the leaves carefully raked up and burned, oak galls will be scarce or absent.

Mr. Ashmead said that he had found oak galls on the Smithsonian Grounds, and Mr. Marlatt replied that the Smithsonian Grounds are not so thoroughly cared for as those of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Waite remarked that among the oaks in the Department of Agriculture there are very few native trees.

—Mr. Howard presented a paper, of which the following is an abstract:

#### A DIPTEROUS PARASITE OF LACHNOSTERNA.

By L. O. HOWARD.

(Author's abstract.)

The speaker exhibited two specimens of a *Lachnosterna* of the *fusca* group; one bore upon the thorax two groups of Dipterous eggs, one group consisting of five oval eggs laid side by side to the right of the median line, and the other group consisting of four similar eggs, similarly placed, to the left of the median line. The other specimen bore a cluster of seven such eggs to the left of the median line. Each of these eggs was about 1 mm. long, and of a light yellow-brown color. He had never seen similar eggs upon a *Lachnosterna*, nor had his associates, Messrs. Schwarz and Pergande, out of many thousands of specimens ex-

amined. The two specimens in question were collected June 4th, near Tannersville, New York, at an elevation of 2,500 feet. He referred to a note by Dr. Lugger, on page 50, volume I of the Proceedings of the Society, which recorded the oviposition of a Tachina fly upon the hard body of *Rhodobænus 13-punctatus*, a bright-colored beetle which Dr. Lugger thought had been mistaken for a caterpillar by the Tachina fly. He also referred to the rearing of a fly of the genus *Sarcophaga* from a Carabid beetle, *Scarites subterraneus*, by Mr. Chittenden, as noted at a recent meeting of the Society. He further stated that, on one occasion, a Tachinid had been reared at Washington from *Lachnosterna inversa*, specimens of which had been placed in a box to get the eggs. The notes do not prove the parasitism, which was, however, strongly suspected. Two cases are also recorded in the notes in which Tachina flies have been bred from *Lachnosterna* larvæ.

The case possesses interest not only on account of its rarity, but on account of the fact that all of the *Lachnosternas* hide beneath the surface of the ground during the day, whereas the Tachina flies are exclusively day-flyers. Mr. Coquillett thinks that the eggs, from their color, may not be those of a Tachinid, but the speaker did not know what other insect to suspect.

Mr. Schwarz suggested that the peculiar fact brought out by Mr. Howard that the Tachina flies are day-flyers and the *Lachnosternas* night-flyers, might be modified since there is always a possibility that we may have night-flying Tachinids or day-flying *Lachnosternas*. Moreover, on account of the stony ground and comparative absence of soil in the locality where these specimens were collected, the beetles might not have been able to enter the ground during the day and were thus exposed to the attacks of Tachina flies; further, since Tachinids have been reared from *Lachnosterna* larvæ, and since these larvæ are always found at a considerable distance below the surface of the ground, may not the beetles carry the eggs to the vicinity of the larvæ? Further he had noticed that the beetles when hiding by day under leaves, etc., often assume an erect position, so that if any portion of the body were exposed, or nearly exposed, it would be the head and thorax. He emphasized the unusual character of the observation by showing that he had collected adult *Lachnosternas* by the quart during one season and had never seen such specimens as those exhibited by Mr. Howard.

—Mr. Ashmead presented the following paper :