

Mr. Schwarz remarked that it is wonderful that this species, as well as many other European insects, have not been introduced into America at an earlier date, and called attention to the fact that, as already pointed out by Osten-Sacken, the most unexpected introductions frequently occur, whereas those most to be expected may not be brought about for many years. He stated that this insect is one which is especially guarded against by police regulations in Germany, the inhabitants of a given district being notified on a certain day to destroy the larvæ upon their premises, and the police immediately thereafter inspecting the work and fining delinquents.

Mr. Matthis spoke of the special danger from this imported species. He said that it is one of the forms whose egg-masses are distasteful to birds through the admixture of hairs from the anal tuft of the female moth. For this reason birds will not touch it. He recounted his European experience with the species, and both he and Mr. Schwarz stated that the female flies well, and that the species may therefore spread in the adult stage.

OMISSION FROM PROCEEDINGS OF MAY 13, 1897.

The publication committee announces that through an unfortunate error no mention is made in the proceedings of the meeting of May 13, 1897, of the reading of an elaborate paper on the Genera of the Encyrtinæ by Mr. Ashmead. This paper has been withdrawn for publication elsewhere.

—Mr. Howard read a paper, of which he has submitted the following abstract:

THE THOMSON-MAYR PRIORITY QUESTION SETTLED.

By L. O. HOWARD.

It will be remembered that, at the last meeting of the Society, following the reading of the paper on the genera of the Encyrtinæ, by Mr. Ashmead, a discussion took place between Messrs. Ashmead, Schwarz, and the writer relative to the possibility that volume IV of Thomson's "Hymenoptera Skandinaviæ," the printed title-page of which showed the date 1875, was, in reality, published subsequently to Mayr's paper on the Encyrtinæ, which was read before the Zoölogisch Botanische Gesellschaft in Wien, December, 1875.

It has been established since this discussion took place that Mayr's paper was published not later than the end of January,

1876, since the receipt of the printed paper is acknowledged in one of the German periodicals published in February, 1876. It was supposed that the Thomson work might have been printed by signatures, and that while the first signature, containing the title-page, might really have been published in 1875, the later signatures might have been published at a considerably later date. The writer had addressed a letter to Dr. Christopher Aurivillius, of Stockholm, and, on June 7th, received a reply which practically settles the matter. Dr. Aurivillius writes, under date of May 12th, that he has gained full information on the subject through consulting Thomson's letters to Stål in the years 1875 and 1876. It appears that volume IV of the "Hymenoptera Skandinaviæ" was published in two parts, Part 1 containing pages 1 to 192, and including, on pages 112 to 183, his consideration of the Encyrtinæ, the only portion of the work about which there is a possible conflict. The first sheet, including the title-page with the date 1875, was printed in September or October, 1875. The second sheet (of 16 pages) was not printed on October 11th, 1875. The impression of the following sheets, or signatures, was delayed for the very significant reason that Thomson hoped to use some of Dalman's types of Encyrtinæ, which, at that time, had been loaned to Dr. Mayr. The last sheet was printed at the end of May, or in the first days of June. It will be noticed that I have used the word "printed" up to this time. On June 6th Thomson wrote that the first part was published, and that he intended to continue the printing in August. It thus appears that Part 1 of volume IV of the "Hymenoptera Skandinaviæ" was certainly not published before the latter part of May. Mayr's work, having been published the end of January, thus antedates Thomson's by four full months, and all coincident new genera should, therefore, be known by Mayr's names.

These facts have never been recorded, and are even unknown to Dr. Dalla Torre, the author of the great catalogue of the Hymenoptera of the world, since, in a recent paper in the Wiener Entomologische Zeitung, he adopts the convenience method of deciding the priority between these two writers as regards the genera of Encyrtinæ.

The paper was discussed by Messrs. Schwarz, Ashmead, Gill, Waite, and Howard.

Mr. Schwarz called attention to the fact that the first published announcement of the receipt of Part 1, volume IV, of Thomson's Hymenoptera Scandinaviæ which he was able to find occurred in the Entomologische Monatsblätter of April and May, 1877.

Mr. Ashmead expressed his pleasure at the settling of the long