

of Dr. Ewing's is the first record of the genus in America. Such is not so. Stoll, in the *Acari* of the *Biol. Cent. Amer.*, published over twenty years ago, describes a species from Guatemala (*Nicoletiella neotropica*).

PUPA OF BRACHYPALPUS FRONTOSUS Lw.

BY H. L. PARKER,
Bureau of Entomology.

A puparium of this rather common syrphid fly was found by the writer February 18 last on top of the mountain range lying south of Hagerstown, Md. It was under a growth of the moss *Polytrichum ohioensis* and was placed in a tin box and kept in a moist condition indoors. An adult fly emerged March 15, which was determined by Mr. Walton as *Brachypalpus frontosus* Loew. The puparium proper is 11 mm. long, of the usual syrphid shape, namely that of a pear flattened on one side, without lateral appendages and brownish in color. The anal end is produced in a distinct cauda about 4 mm. in length, bearing at its base three or four pairs of filamentous lateral appendages.

CAPTURES OF THE SYRPHID FLY, MERAPIOIDUS VIL- LOSUS BIGOT.

BY R. C. SHANNON,
Bureau of Entomology.

This fly has been recorded but three times, so far as the writer is aware, and recent captures by him and others may be of interest. Six specimens were taken at sap of sugar maple March 13 and 14, 1915, at Dead Run, Fairfax Co., Va. On the latter date, Mr. McAtee also took a specimen on a maple bud on Plummer's Island, Md., and Mr. Banks on the same day took two specimens at sap of swamp maple at Falls Church, Va. Four days later Mr. Greene and the writer each took a specimen at Dead Run, one at sap and the other resting on the trunk of a beech tree.

Bigot described this genus and species (*Bull. Soc. Ent. de France*, 1879, p. L) from Georgia. Williston recorded a specimen from Georgia (*North American Syrphidæ*, 1886, p. 244). This specimen and another collected by Morrison in North Carolina were the only examples in the National Collection. Metcalf (*Syrphidæ of Ohio*, *Ohio State Univ. Bull.*, Vol. XVII, No. 31, p. 96. 1913) records three specimens from Ohio, two of them taken April

1 on *Salix* at Lakeville. The unusually early occurrence of this syrphid (before the appearance of the spring flowers) is probably the reason that it has been so seldom taken.

AN UNUSUAL COLOR IN A HORNET'S NEST.

BY L. O. HOWARD.

Recently the Bureau of Entomology has received a specimen of the nest of the bald-faced hornet (*Vespula maculata* Linnaeus) from Mr. Arthur D. Addison of Washington, D. C. This nest was collected between Massachusetts and Cathedral Avenues and is remarkable inasmuch as it is irregularly striped with vivid blue. The blue stripes seem to be precisely of the same texture as the mottled gray covering of the nest. It is presumed that the blue stripes in this nest were made from a kind of building paper which workmen commonly use in the buildings in the suburbs. Mr. Addison notes that this nest was far removed from any building and it is doubtful where the wasps could have found access to such paper.

In discussing this paper Mr. Crawford stated that it was not at all uncommon for nests of this hornet to have stripes in them. One very often finds nests bearing a few very small white stripes evidently made when the wasps discover a supply of white paper.

The National Museum has on exhibit a very fine example of colored nest from Barto, Pennsylvania. In this example there is so much red that the nest may better be described as being red with grayish stripes. In this, the color appears to be due to the wasps having used cedar for the manufacture of their paper.

In the opinion of Mr. Crawford the striping is due to the concentration of work by the wasps along a narrow stripe, then their moving to another portion of the nest to work while allowing the first part to dry, and also to the well known habit of the social Hymenoptera when discovering a ready supply of building material or food to concentrate their efforts to carry it away. In this connection he stated that some accurate observations on both actual work of building and on securing the building material are greatly desired as our knowledge of these is very limited.
