

THE EGG OF PSEUDOSERMYLE TRUNCATA CAUDELL.

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Messrs. Schwarz and Barber brought from Sabino Canyon, Arizona, a female of the above species which was taken by Mr. F. I. Tucker. It was inclosed in a glass jar and before dying it deposited several eggs, one of which is here figured. This egg is of considerable interest, not so much for the odd shape, for extraordinary shapes are common in this family of Orthoptera, but for the fact that they are not dropped at random by the insect but fastened to some object. In nature, they are very securely glued to the stems and branches of the food plant. The common supposition has been that the eggs of Phasmids were

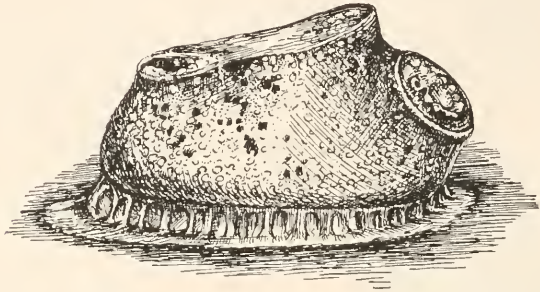


Fig. 1. Egg of *Pseudosermyle truncata*, greatly enlarged.

dropped free but just how far this is true is not at all certain. The eggs of a goodly number of species have been described but the habits of oviposition are but little recorded. Brunner and Redtenbacher in their recent monograph of the family make no mention of exceptions to the rule of free dropping of eggs, nor does Sharp in the Cambridge Natural History. In fact, the only mention I know of the fastening of the eggs of walking sticks is by Shelford in Rept. Brit. Assoc. Adv. Sci., 1901, p. 689-691, where it is stated that in Borneo the Phasmidae of the genera *Necroschia*, *Marmessoidea* and *Agondasoidea* stick the eggs in rows on the leaves of the food plant, not dropped at random as in others.

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