

NOTE ON THE DEATH-FEINT OF BRUCHUS OBTECTUS (SAY)

The common bean weevil, *Bruchus obtectus*, exhibits a wide variation in the duration of its comparatively brief death-feint. Out of 283 freshly emerged beetles, only 72 could be induced to feign death. Although dropped from a height of 12 inches, having their thoraxes pinched, being rolled between the thumb and forefinger, 211 of the weevils refused to perform in spite of all the handling. The 72 that actually went into death-feints, frequently did so, with comparatively little trouble. A slight disturbance such as touching them with the tip of a pencil, or causing them to fall one inch, or gently pressing the sides of the thorax brought about the desired reaction.

The temperature during these tests was 70° F. For the 72 beetles that reacted, the duration of the feint varied in length from 1 to 300 seconds. The duration of the weighted, arithmetic average death-feint was 33.5 seconds, and the standard deviation was 74.8. The following table shows the duration of the death-feint in the 72 different beetles that reacted:

No. beetles	Length of death- feint	No. beetles	Length of death- feint	No. beetles	Length of death- feint	No. beetles	Length of death- feint
	<i>Seconds</i>		<i>Seconds</i>		<i>Seconds</i>		<i>Seconds</i>
2	1	1	12	5	30	1	75
4	2	2	14	1	32	1	78
3	3	6	15	1	33	1	80
1	4	3	17	1	35	1	100
5	5	1	18	1	40	1	105
1	6	5	20	1	50	1	250
2	8	1	22	1	53	1	290
2	9	1	23	1	57	1	300
3	10	3	25	1	60		
2	11	1	29	2	70		

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