

HIBERNATION OF THE SYRPHID FLY, *LATHYROPTHALMUS ÆNEUS* SCOP.

Lathyrophthalmus æneus Scopoli has the interesting habit of hibernating gregariously in old nests and burrows of Aculeate Hymenoptera. On several occasions in the last few winters the writer has encountered the species in open tunnels of various anthophorid bees situated in vertical banks or cliffs. In February, 1944, however, several hundred specimens were found hibernating in empty nests of the black and yellow mud-dauber, *Sceliphron servillei* (Saussure), in various localities in the San Joaquin Valley, California. The localities included Merced in Merced County, Chowchilla and Berenda in Madera County, Tulare and Tipton in Tulare County, and Kingsburg and Fowler in Fresno County. In all cases the nests utilized for hibernation were situated under bridges or culverts. Usually five or six individuals, more rarely eight or nine, occupied a single empty mud cell. Prof. F. M. Hull, who very kindly made the identification, reported that both sexes were present in a series of approximately thirty specimens submitted to him, with the females slightly predominating.

The only other hibernating insect using these nests and approaching the syrphids in abundance was the elm leaf beetle, *Gallerucella xanthomelæna* (Schrank). These, however, were hibernating elsewhere in the vicinity under a variety of different conditions, whereas the syrphids appeared to exhibit a marked preference for this particular habitat.—E. GORTON LINSLEY.



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