

A NEW PREDACEOUS ENEMY OF THE COTTON BOLL WEEVIL

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So far as known to the writers there is no published record of any Carabid which attacks the boll weevil, *Anthonomus grandis* Boh.

While conducting some experiments with boll weevils in cages, during May of the present year, it was noticed that the adult weevils in one cage disappeared with remarkable rapidity. It may be remarked, by way of parenthesis, that in cages of the character used, weevils dying in the cages are usually found with ease on the ground around the growing plants. Especially is this true when daily examinations of the cages are made. In the cage referred to but few dead weevils could be found and the mortality among the weevils confined therein was several hundred per cent higher than the mortality in other cages under similar conditions. Upon close examination of this cage upon May 11th a small hole was noticed in the earth in one corner of the cage and at a depth of five inches in this hole was found a live Carabid together with elytra and other fragments remaining from the destruction of at least nine boll weevils.

This beetle we have identified as *Evarthrus sodalis* Lec., and from the number of weevil remains found with it, it seems not improbable that boll weevils constitute an important part of its food in the weevil-infested section.

A few days later another species of *Evarthrus*, as yet undetermined, was captured and placed in a glass jar with several live boll weevils. In the course of a few hours this Carabid caught and ate two of them.

It therefore seems that the several species of this genus may be regarded as probable enemies of the boll weevil and the part played by them in the natural control of the latter insect may prove to be of some little importance.

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