

Devil's River, and Brownsville; Alabama: Escambia Co.; Florida: Haw Creek, Indian River, Pensacola, Capron, Centreville, Lake Harney, Sarasota, Lake Worth, and Miami; Georgia: Lyons, Okefenokee Swamp, and Savannah; and South Carolina: Beaufort, Tillman, Yemassee, and Seabrooks Island.

THE EGG-BALL OF *DELTOCHILUM GIBBOSUM* (Fab.)

By O. L. CARTWRIGHT

United States National Museum

Several years ago while using rotting chicken feathers as bait for *Trox* in the mountains of South Carolina, the writer was surprised and pleased to take several specimens of *Deltochilum gibbosum* along with the various *Trox* and other insects. Some time later the same bait, which had been placed beside a log near the trail, was visited again and in searching under the leaves an egg-ball of *Deltochilum* was found tucked in close under the log. The ball was the size and shape of a Narcissus bulb and, in fact, had exactly the same appearance. It measured 1½ inches in diameter and two inches down through the neck. The ball contained a pupa of the beetle and closely packed fine downlike feathers. The outside was covered with soil and dead leaves, the leaves being so closely and tightly wrapped as to give it the appearance of a plant bulb. The following season a second pear-shaped egg-ball which contained a large yellowish egg in the smaller end was found near another pile of feathers. It had the center composed of a grayish mass of closely firmly packed downlike feathers, surrounded by a layer of claylike soil, and an outside covering of pieces of dead leaves.

Deltochilum gibbosum has been collected in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. In South Carolina it occurs throughout the State, has been collected from May 5 to August 30, and has been taken at various dead animals, dog hair, and human excrement as well as chicken feathers. It was observed rolling a large ball of excrement in the same manner as by Canthon of various species.

The above brief note is presented with the hope that someone in the Southern States where *Deltochilum gibbosum* is found will work out the life history of this our largest "tumble-bug." It is hoped especially that its larva will be obtained and preserved. The United States National Museum would like to obtain such larvae since the immature stages of *Deltochilum* are unknown.



Cartwright, Oscar Ling. 1949. "The Egg-Ball of *Deltochilum gibbosum* (Fab.)." *The Coleopterists' Bulletin* 3(3), 38–38.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/271416>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/372035>

Holding Institution

University Library, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Sponsored by

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: The Coleopterists Society

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.