

the *C. cassius* described from the Congo. If the hypothesis which I advanced in my paper of 1928 be accepted, the latter specimen may be supposed to have been infected by *Mermis* as an adult worker minor larva just before spinning its cocoon, whereas the *minutior* mermithergate was infected as a queen larva which had developed slightly beyond the stage at which, by some difference in feeding, it might have been converted into a normal worker major.

DIPTERA DESTROYING SNAILS

In a series of papers entitled "Natural History Notes from North Carolina" (Journ. Cincinnati Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 17, p. 72, 1894), A. G. Wetherby under *Zonites elliotti* Redf. says: "This shell is destroyed by a parasitic larva, the imago of which is a small and active species of Diptera. The grown larva occupies the shell as a pupa house after devouring the inmate. I have noticed this habit of the Diptera in the case of but one other species, and that is *Polygyra fastigans* Say. At the only locality where I have collected this latter species, more than half the snails were affected, and the number of dead shells holding the empty pupa cases, were sufficient testimony to the activity of the parasite."

It would be interesting to know what this fly really is. A small Sarcophagid—*Helicobia helcis* Town. was bred from a snail—*Polygyra thyroidus* Say. I have always looked up this record as only accidental, for the fly is common and has been bred from a number of species of insects, and in many cases is considered a true parasite (Aldrich, "Sarcophaga and Allies in North America, pp. 158-161, 1916). Dr. J. Bequaert however, has described a Sarcophagid representing a new genus and species—*Malacophagula neotropica* from a snail—*Bulimulus tenuissimus* at Para, Brazil, which he considers a true parasite of the snail (Journ. Parasitology, vol. XI, pp. 201-212, 1925).

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