

Deckelchen, und die Wände sind von einem sehr dünnen, festanliegenden, weissen Gewebe überzogen. In diesem Falle hat die *Odynerus exilis*-Larve also einen Wandcocon gesponnen, der dem des *Odynerus laevipes* ähnlich ist. Die oberste Zelle ist leer.

Früh muss das Wespenweibchen zugrunde gegangen sein; denn der grösste Teil der Neströhre ist nicht ausgeutzt worden. Ein Hauptverschluss fehlt auch. Vielleicht sind es auch die letzten Zellen, welche das Weibchen anlegte; und die obere Zelle ist nur eine Scheinzelle, zum Schutz der übrigen angelegt. — Nur aus der unteren Zelle schlüpfte am 9. 6. '02 ein *Odynerus exilis* ♂; in der folgenden ging der Insasse als Nymphe zugrunde. — Gefunden wurde die Nestanlage Anfang Mai 1902 bei Hünxe (Niederrhein).

11. *Rhopalum clavipes* L. und *Crabro* sp. (*capitosus* Sh.?).

Rhopalum clavipes L. wurde zuerst von C. Verhoeff als Rubusbewohner festgestellt. Sowohl in den „Biologischen Aphorismen“ als auch in den „Beiträgen zur Biologie der Hymenopteren“ beschreibt er die Nestanlagen, Zellen und Cocons. In den „Biologischen Aphorismen“ wird auch ein Bau beschrieben, welcher unten im Nestgange eine Zelle von *Psen concolor* Dahlb. und darüber eine solche von *Rhopalum clavipes* L. enthält. Bei diesem Bau handelt es sich sicher nicht um eine Konkurrenz um die Nistplätze, da *Psen concolor* Dhlb. viel stärker ist als *Rhopalum clavipes*. Vielmehr ist das *Psen* ♀ frühzeitig zugrunde gegangen und hat somit das Nest nicht vollenden können. Wie schon C. Verhoeff beobachtete, benutzt *Rhopalum clavipes* mit Vorliebe solche unvollendeten Bauten neben alten verlassenen Gängen in Rubus- und Sambucuszweigen. Wir haben es hier also mit der Ausnutzung einer bequemen Nistgelegenheit durch *Rhopalum clavipes* zu tun; es handelt sich also auch nur um eine Scheinkonkurrenz gerade wie im folgenden Falle. Ausserdem macht uns diese Nestanlage noch mit einem in Deutschland noch nicht beobachteten Schmarotzer der Rubusbewohner bekannt, der ausserdem bei einem Wirt beobachtet wurde, als dessen Schmarotzer er noch nicht bekannt war.

Der in Figur XXII dargestellte Bau wurde im Januar 1900 bei Freissenbüttel nördlich von Bremen gefunden. Die 11,8 cm tiefe Neströhre wurde von einem *Crabro* ♀ (wahrscheinlich *Codocrabro capitosus*) ausgeagt.

(Schluss folgt.)

Anobium pertinax and barometrical minima.

By A. C. Jensen-Haarup, Silkeborg, Denmark.

From my earliest childhood I have been acquainted with *Anobium pertinax*, its boring holes and its peculiar knocking in the wood of old furnitures and in the wood work in old houses. I knew it all long before I became a trained Entomologist, because the country people, among whom I grew up (Jutland), knew the insect fairly well and to a certain extent also its biological data. Even a Folklore name was present, derived from the similarity between the sound of its knocking and the sound, which the stork produces with its beak. But it was not this jutlandic trivial name („Kneewerstork“) that was of any interest to me later on, neither that the people believed that the knocking of the Boring Beetle would be the same as Death had come to announce that he would come to make harvest in the house (in High Danish the name

of the *Anobium* is „Dódningehret“, which might be translated as the Death's watch or the dead man's watch). On the contrary, what interested me much more was the circumstance that the country people regarded it as certain that, when the beetle's knocking was heard, we would assuredly have „change in the weather“.

Now it is presumed as settled that the knocking of the Boring Beetle for the greater part serves as a sort of language that will make it easier to the two sexes to find each other. I shall not try either to deny or to support this theory, which may perhaps be well founded, but, on the contrary, to a certain extent discuss the theory of the connection between the change of the weather and the knocking of the Boring Beetle, which theory I was in the habit of Studying about 20 years ago. My researches and experiences from that time and during several years shew me that there was really something about the question. It became evident that *Anobium pertinax* to a certain extent really could be taken as a good weather prophet, almost as good as a barometer, but of course we cannot fully rely on the glass as a weather prophet except we have some knowledge of the meteorological laws.

I shall not go into details as to my investigations or give any statistics relating my daily observations and notes, but shall be satisfying myself in giving a summary of the results from my observations: The knocking of the Boring Beetle is most often heard in the autumn and winter months and more especially only when the barometer is strongly raising or falling. I must especially point out that the characteristic Sound of the knocking is very distinctly heard in both cases, and it is very energetic too, and that it consequently is the change of the air depression that causes the little coleopteron to act so energetically.

Every Meteorologist knows that whether the barometer is strongly or suddenly falling or raising the weather will then be very unreliable, rainy or stormy, on account of change in the air depression or better of the fact that a barometrical minimum on its way in a north easterly direction (in the northern part of Europe) is in the neighbourhood, either coming against us (falling of the glass) or having passed at some distance and going from us (raising of the glass).

After having for some years studied the matter I felt convinced that „folk's“ experience in this as in many other cases really was based upon facts, and that the Boring Beetle pretty well could be considered as a good weather prophet.

My observations had been made in old houses with very old and partly rotten wood work, in which the *Anobium* as a rule easily may be found. But meanwhile I became occupied in quite other entomological branches and went on long journeys abroad, so I did not think much more of the Boring Beetle and its life habits for a series of years.

After having returned from remote countries (1907) I settled here in Silkeborg in quite a new house to work out and study my collections in quiet surroundings. When I now was most interested either in preparation of neotropical insects or occupied with the microscope or the lense, who was it then that disturbed me and so energetically called my attention by the well known knocking? Of course the Boring Beetle! I was compelled to take interest in the little creature once more!

I took up the matter again and found not only my old observations corroborated, but also, and especially this autumn (1909) observed a new, and it seems to me very interesting, circumstance viz that the Boring Beetle very often also knocks in an energetic way before (as a rule some few hours) the coming barometrical minimum has been able to induce movements on the barometer.

This has been exceedingly interesting to me.

Whether the *Anobium* can be considered as a good and true weather prophet or not may of course, if I can say so, in the first line become a question of curiosity. That more or less strong alterations in the air depressions directly or indirectly are able to cause the insect to act in some way, in casu to knock, might, I think, be explained in a somewhat natural way, but that the insect acts still before the glass begins to fall, that means before the air depression has reached the place, is very surprising, and it gives a hint of forces (electrical?), of which we till now, as far as animal activity goes, are not fully acquainted of.

I feel sure that every Entomologist, who has the opportunity of studying the Boring Beetle, may be pleased in observing its knocking in relation to the change of weather or the barometrical minima, and I also feel convinced that he will not only be able to corroborate my observations but also to add new facts to them. But I may as well notice that this study must be the sake of the entomologists of the „country“. Those who live in the towns will not have the best opportunity. The noise in large cities will quite suppress the little fellow's, let us say, calling its better half part!

Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Halticinenfauna Mittel- und Süditaliens.

Von G. Paganetti-Hummler, Vöslau.

(Schluss aus Heft 4.)

52. *Phyll. procera* Redtb. S. Basilio und Grottaglie.
53. *Phyll. nigripes* Fab, Cast. di S., nur wenige, hell metallgrüne Stücke; S. Basilio, gleichfalls nur metallgrüne Individuen.
54. *Aphthona flaviceps* All. S. Basilio und Grottaglie.
55. *Aphth. nigriceps* Redtb. Cast. d. S., meist Stücke mit schwach geschwärzter Naht; Le Murgie; Aspromonte.
56. *Aphth. Fuentei* Reitt. S. Basilio, in geringer Anzahl.
57. *Aphth. lutescens* Gyll. Cast. di S.
58. *Aphth. venustula* Kutsch. Cast. di S., Mte. Arazecca, Mte. Pagano, in Anzahl; Antonimina (Asprom.)
59. 60. *Aphth. pygmaea* Kutsch. Cast. di S., nur wenige Stücke; aus dem Süden (S. Basilio und Aspromonte) mehrfach die var. *nigella* Kutsch.
61. *Aphth. sicelidis* Wse. Gerace, Cimina (Calabr.).
62. *Aphth. euphorbiae* Schrank (*virescens* Foudr.). Grottaglie und Aspromonte.
63. *Aphth. hispana* All. (?) Cast. di S., Antonimina, einzeln.
64. *Aphth. atrovirens* Först. Mte. Greco; ein Stück.
65. *Aphth. herbigrada* Curt. Cast. di S.
66. *Longitarsus echii* Koch. S. Basilio.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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