

★ *Strange behaviour of Astilbus canaliculatus F. (Col., Staphylinidae).*—I was very much interested in my friend Mr. A. H. Hamm's note (1939, *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 75: 279) on the habits of *Astilbus canaliculatus F.*, especially as these are the first records of the beetle carrying any insect other than ants, living or dead. It is of course a well established fact that *Astilbus* attacks and kills ants, and that they are its proper food. As Mr. Hamm justly remarks, why should the beetle go to the trouble and labour of carrying a fairly large fly such a long distance, if it were only intended for food. I cannot agree, however, with the suggestion that it was for storage as food for its future progeny. I have found the larvae of this beetle, as well as the perfect insect, actually in the nests of the ants, though the imago more generally away from them, but almost always in company with ants. I do not think a fly or any other insect stored by the beetle would last long where ants were about. I suggest that the fly was being carried to a convenient spot where it would attract ants, and give the beetle the opportunity to attack and kill them whilst they were occupied with the bait. This is not in any way improbable. Diptera themselves have been recorded robbing the fierce driver ants of their brood when on the march, actually settling and dragging the pupa out of the very jaws of the ants. The beetle would simply pounce on and kill a feeding ant (or one carrying the fly) and devour it. Should the beetle be attacked it would protect itself with its repugnatorial glands. I also consider that the live aphid mentioned by Mr. Hamm was intended as a lure for ants. The idea that a beetle should set a trap is not too far-fetched. Ants themselves carry the eggs of aphides into their nests for the winter, and, when hatched in the spring, take them out and place them on their proper food-plants. This shows greater foresight than the mere setting of a trap.—HORACE DONISTHORPE, British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, S.W.7: December 17th, 1939.

Cryptorrhynchus lapathi L. (Col., Curculionidae) and Ephialtes tuberculatus Frc. (Hym., Ichneumonidae).—Willows here have been badly infested, for quite twelve years, with *Cryptorrhynchus lapathi L.*, the beetles apparently enjoying complete immunity from parasitic attack. Although I have noted both *Ephialtes tuberculatus Frc.* and *E. carbonarius Chr.* in the Forest, as near as Broomy and Boldrewood, neither of these species had been, apparently, attracted by the numerous potential hosts at Appleslade. It was interesting, therefore, to see that in July and September last season Nemesis had ultimately appeared in the form of *E. tuberculatus*, which was flying commonly among the affected coppice.—F. H. HAINES, Appleslade, Linwood, Ringwood, Hants.: January 11th, 1940.

All four British species of *Notonecta* (Hemipt.) taken simultaneously from one pond.—*Notonecta glauca L.*, *N. maculata F.*, *N. viridis Deic.* and *N. obliqua* Gallen were taken at the same time from one pond, near Haileybury College, Hertford, Herts, on September 29th, 1938. The pond had only been constructed a few months, by damming a small stream, but contained a considerable growth of *Ranunculus aquatilis L.*; it has now dried up again owing to a flaw in the dam. The bottom was muddy, but *Notonecta maculata* found the necessary hard surface for oviposition in the concrete of which the dam was constructed. The whole pond was some twenty yards by ten yards, with a small island in the middle.—E. S. BROWN, Hailey Lodge, Hertford Heath, Hertford: January 8th, 1940.

LORDOMYRMA INFUNDIBULI (HYM., FORMICIDAE), A NEW SPECIES OF ANT FROM DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

BY HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., ETC.

Lordomyrma infundibuli sp.n.

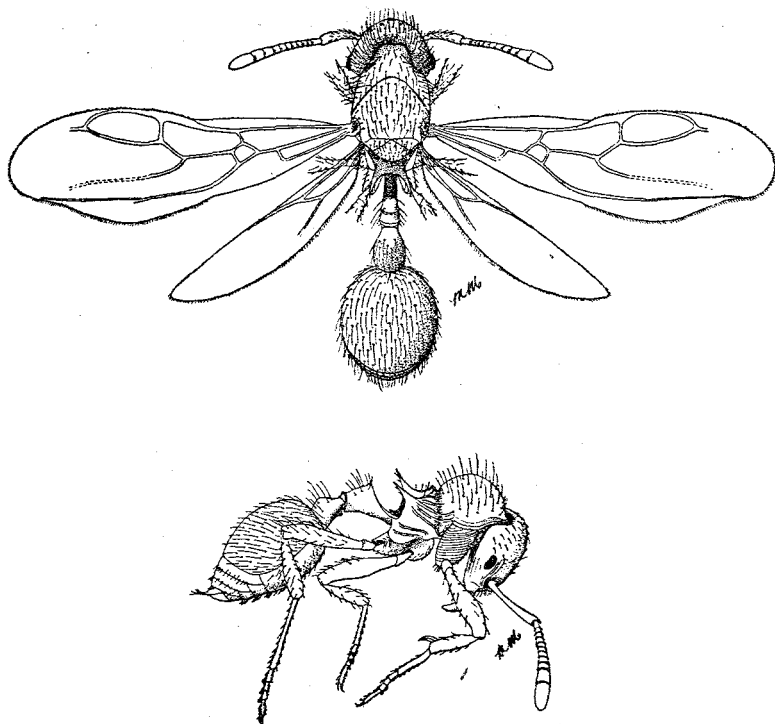
♂. Darker or lighter brown, mandibles, funiculi, tibiae, tarsi, articulations of antennae and joints of legs, apex of scapes, femora and spines dirty yellow. Whole body shining, with widely separate shallow setigerous punctures, raised in front, and clothed with longer and shorter scattered erect brown hairs, funiculi and tibiae with closer short subdepressed yellow hairs, clubs and apex of neck with abundant very fine and short decumbent yellowish-white hairs.

Head, not counting mandibles, subquadrate, posterior border somewhat deeply excised to receive neck, but almost straight when seen from above, posterior angles rounded; *mandibles* large, triangular, masticatory border armed with two sharp, longer teeth at apex, followed by five small teeth or dentules, very finely and closely punctured at base, the rest with small and scattered punctures; *clypeus* with anterior border rounded, projecting posteriorly between the antennal carinae, with two finely raised lines on each side, smooth and shining between; *frontal area* not clearly defined, longitudinally striate; *cheeks* and anterior portion of head before and beside eyes longitudinally striate; *antennal carinae* with a sharp edged lobe convergent behind and then diverging in a narrow raised line, continued for two-thirds of the length of the head; *antennae* 12-jointed, *scape* not reaching posterior angles of head, *funiculi* gradually increasing in breadth, with a three-jointed *club* a little longer than the rest taken together; first joint longer than broad, triangular, as long as the next three taken together, joints 2-7 transverse, last joint of club long, bluntly pointed, as long as the two preceding taken together; *maxillary palpi* 4-jointed, *labial palpi* 3-jointed; *eyes* longer than broad, slightly narrowed anteriorly. *Thorax* robust, broader anteriorly than posteriorly, no distinct suture between *pronotum* and *mesonotum*, which form together a very convex round surface; *pronotum* strongly margined at sides and with anterior angles bluntly rounded; *meso-epinotal furrow* wide and deep, coarsely longitudinally striate, the striae continuing along the sternites of thorax and sides of *epinotum*; *epinotum* with anterior border raised in an angle and margined, dorsal surface margined, slightly concave and when tilted evidently transversely striate, *spines* fairly long, straight, divergent, sharply pointed, *declivity* abrupt, circularly striate and armed with two short, sharp teeth at base; *petiole* with a long peduncle; node high, terminating in a sharp point at anterior end, with several transverse raised lines on posterior dorsal surface, forming slight projections at sides, posterior border with raised margin; *post-petiole* longer than broad, with raised transverse lines forming one or two projections at sides, and a raised ridge above, a short projecting tooth at anterior end of ventral surface. *Gaster* short, oval, first segment forming greater part of the same. Anterior *coxae* strongly transversely striate; *legs* long, *femora* and *tibiae* spindle shaped, no spurs to intermediate and posterior tibiae. *Long.* 3.7 mm.—4 mm.

♀. Colour, structure, puncturation and hairs much as in the ♂. *Eyes* larger and more prominent, *ocelli* present. *Thorax* with very distinct sutures between *mesonotum*, *praescutellum* and *scutellum*. *Parapsidal furrows* reaching basal

margin of mesonotum. *Spines* somewhat thicker and slightly curved inwards. *Wings* somewhat dusky and thickly covered with short dark hairs, *anterior wing* with one small *discoidal cell*, one long closed *cubital cell*, and one closed *radial cell* slightly shorter than the *cubital cell* and appendiculate at apex. *Long.* 4.5 mm.

Type and ♀ type in B.M. Collection.



Lordomyrma infundibuli sp.n.; above, ♀; below, ♂.

Described from 5 ♂♂ and 1 winged ♀ taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman, Dutch New Guinea, Jutefa Bay, Pim, ii.1936. The ants were found in clay among the roots of an uprooted tree. The nest was on a horizontal face, with a funnel entrance.

This is the first time a female has been described in this genus. The species described above is unlike all the known species, differing in size, structure, etc. The genus *Lordomyrma* was created by Emery in 1897 for the reception of *Podomyrma caledonica* André from New Caledonia, and two new species, *L. furcifera* and *L. cryptocera*, which he described. In 1912 Stitz described a variety of *L. cryptocera* Emery from New Guinea under the name var. *accuminata*. In 1919 Wheeler described *L. leae*, ♂ and ♀, from

Lord Howe Island, and *L. punctiventris*, ♂ and ♀, from Queensland. He gave a table of the species and cited *Podomyrma caledonica* André as the type of *Lordomyrma*. In this, however, he was incorrect, as he had already cited *L. furcifera* Emery as the genotype in 1911. In 1923 Menozzi described a new species, *L. crawleyi*, from Humbolt Bay, New Guinea. This species has a spine on the post-petiole as well as on the petiole. In Wheeler's figure of the forewing of one of his males, the radial cell is closed, but not appendiculated as in our female. He took *L. punctiventris* in a small cavity in a rotten log in the dark tropical scrub at Kuranda, Queensland, and says that in life these ants are sluggish and timid.

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British Museum (Natural History),
 London, S.W.7.
 December 1st, 1939.

Society.

SOUTH LONDON ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: *November 4th, 1939*.—Mr. F. Stanley Smith, Vice-President, in the Chair. This was the first meeting to be held in the new meeting place, and some sixty members were present. Mr. S. G. Wallis Norton exhibited hibernating larvae of *Hipparchus papilionaria* L., from ova, and a series of *Lithosia griseola* Hb. including ab. *flava* Haw. Mr. H. W. Andrews, the local Diptera *Porphyrops antennata* Carl. and *Thinophilus flavipalpis* Zett. Mr. F. D. Coote, the Psychid *Taleporia bombycella* Hb., bred from Abbot's Wood, and remarked on the classification of the Psychidae; *Comibaena pustulata* Hufn. (*bajularia* Schiff.) from the Liphook Field Meeting; a photograph of the local Orchid *Epipactis violacea* Sov. found in a West Sussex wood. On behalf of Mr. F. W. Frohawk, Mr. Coote, two *Aglais urticae* L. ab. *nigra* Tutt, E. Farleigh; *Euchloë cardamines* L. ab. *maculata-punctata* Tutt, Broadstairs, 17.iv.39, and a gynandromorph from Swindon; *Colias croceus* Frery ab. *pallida-obsolata* Tutt, Broadstairs. Mr. J. O. T. Howard, an intersex of *Malacosoma castrensis* L. and an ab. *pallida* Tutt, Southend; bred ♀♀ of Cornish *Cosmotriche potatoria* L. Dr. G. V. Bull, ab. *unicolor* Tutt of *Malacosoma castrensis* L., N. Kent, and the Ichneumon *Rhyssa persuasoria* L. Mr. T. R. Eagles, egg parasites of *Amorpha populi* L.; *Ptinus tectus* Boi. (Col.) infesting fish food; bred *Agrotis agathina* Dup., Witley, and *Palimpsestis fluctuosa* Hb., Tilgate Forest. Mr. G. B. Oliver, ♀ *Colias croceus* Frery with hindwings approaching ♀-form *helice* Hb. in colour; colour aberrations of the hindwings of *Argynnis cydippe* L., Sussex origin. Mr. A. A. W.