indistinguishable. Every collector or hunter knows the value of immobility in concealment. Certainly every collector has felt the impulse to give voice to some strongly emphatic expletive on losing a coveted specimen which on being approached drew its legs close to its body and dropped to the ground where it remained effectively hidden from his disappointed eyes. We should be careful, however, not to lay too much emphasis on the advantages of this action because it is hardly probable that the natural enemies of these insects are quite as readily outwitted as we are. Indeed the instinct may in some animals be not only useless but positively injurious. This is true of certain birds which, when pursued, instead of seeking safety in flight or shelter, feign death in the open where they may be easily captured.

There have been several explanations given of the nature of the death feint. Certainly there is no consciousness involved, and the instinct is merely a physico-chemical reaction to external stimulus. The most probable theory is that in the death feint we have an example of negative thigmotaxis, that shrinking from contact characteristic of so large a proportion of all classes of animals.

A NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS TETRAMERINX (DIPTERA, ANTHOMYIIDÆ).

BY J. R. MALLOCH, URBANA, ILL.

The genus *Tetramerinx* belongs to the subfamily *Cœnosiinæ* of the *Anthomyiidae*, and may be distinguished from its allies by the presence of 4 post-sutural dorso-central bristles on the mesonotum. The females are readily distinguished from any allied genus except *Phyllogaster* by the peculiar clawlike processes on the apical abdominal segment.

Stein described the genus under the name *Tetrachæta*, but this name was preoccupied and subsequently was replaced by *Tetramerinx* by Berg.

KEY TO SPECIES.

1. Third antennal joint not over twice as long as
second (III.).....*brevicornis*, sp. n.

July, 1917

- Third antennal joint at least four times as long as second.....2.
2. Hind femora of male with a comblike fasciculus of short, stiff bristles at base of ventral surface; abdomen in both sexes with a pair of large subtriangular black spots on dorsum of segments 2 to 4; veins 3 and 4 of wings convergent apically; antero-dorsal surface of hind tibia with 1 bristle in female (Cal.).....*femorata* Malloch
- Hind femora of male without a fasciculus at base; abdomen in both sexes with a faint central line; veins 3 and 4 of wings subparallel; antero-dorsal surface of hind tibia with 3-4 bristles (Mass., Tex.).....*unica* Stein

***Tetramerinx brevicornis*, sp. n.**

Female.—Length 4 mm. Black, densely covered with yellowish gray pruinescence. Frons yellowish gray with the exception of an opaque, black, wedge-shaped mark on each side at apex of frontal triangle; antennae and palpi black. Thorax unmarked. Abdomen with very faint indications of a pair of spots on dorsum of segments 2 and 3. Legs black. Calypterae white, yellowish on margins. Halteres yellow. Wings clear, veins yellowish.

Frontal triangle very broad, obscuring central stripe on posterior half; each orbit as broad as central stripe, the bristles nearer inner than outer margin, a series of short setulae laterad of the bristles; frons and face distinctly protuberant; third antennal joint about twice as long as second; arista swollen on basal fourth, very shortly pubescent; marginal bristles on cheek sparse; cheek one-fifth as high as eye, the latter nearly twice as high as long. Thorax very sparsely haired; acrostichals irregularly 2-rowed. Abdomen without strong bristles except at apex. Fore tibia with or without a weak bristle; mid tibia with 2 weak posterior bristles; hind tibia with 4-5 antero-dorsal and 2 antero-ventral weak bristles. Inner cross-vein distinctly beyond middle of discal cell; outer cross-vein almost straight; veins 3 and 4 subparallel apically.

Type locality, Waukegan, Ill., August 23, 1906. Taken on shore of Lake Michigan. Two specimens.

Type in collection of Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History.