

ing along roadways or on old pocket gopher hills. An individual discovered on September 9th finished her work soon after being found, and her method of covering the egg cavity did not differ from that of *atlanis*. A second example found on a trail on September 26th, produced an egg-sack, the lower two-thirds of which was almost horizontal owing to the hardness of the soil beneath. A third, located September 28th, was on the edge of a stubble field alongside of a *Dissosteira carolina*, engaged in the same operation. When first discovered the former had her abdomen fully extended into the soil but ten minutes later she abandoned this place, due to the approach of a male *Dissosteira*. She returned, however, a few minutes later, and drilled a hole close to the former, one taking ten minutes to do so. She then became motionless for 49 minutes, at the end of which her work was completed. The egg-sacks of these three individuals contained 94, 98 and 102 eggs, respectively.

AN INTERESTING NEW HYMENOPTEROUS PARASITE.

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The description of this new species is desirable at this time in order to make the name available for use by Prof. S. I. Kornhauser, of Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, who contemplates the early publication of an account of its life-history.

Family BETHYLIDÆ.

Subfamily DRYININÆ.

***Aphelopus theliæ*, new species.**

Female.—In Ashmead's key to species of this genus (Bull. 45, U. S. N. M.) this species runs to *melaleucus* but differs in the colour of the legs and in the absence of any white on the head. In J. J. Kieffer's key (Das Tierreich, 1914, Vol. 41, p. 215) it runs to *affinis*, but differs from the description of that species in having the face entirely black and the legs almost entirely black.

Length 2.2 mm. Black; mouth-parts except mandibles pale yellow, mandibles piceous; antennæ black, the scape beneath and the pedicel reddish; front tibiæ and tarsi more or less reddish; wings hyaline, the stigma black; veins pale. Whole head very finely, closely, almost granularly punctate, the punctures slightly

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stronger on the clypeus; the anterior margin of clypeus slightly rounded; mandibles tridentate; face with a weak carinate median line extending from the base of clypeus half way to the anterior ocellus; eyes with only a very few scattered hairs, practically bare; antennal pedicel and first flagellar joint subequal, and together slightly longer than the scape; second flagellar joint a little shorter than the first; following joints to the last gradually shortening, apical joint nearly twice as long as the one before it, which is one and one-half times as long as broad; ocelli in an obtuse triangle; postocellar line much longer than the ocellocular; mesoscutum and scutellum sculptured like the head, parapsidal grooves absent; propleura longitudinally striate at least below; mesopleura a little more coarsely and irregularly sculptured than the mesoscutum; propodeum dorsally with coarse reticulations, the sides and posterior face more finely rugulose-punctate; stigma subovate, the stigmal vein slightly shorter than the width of stigma opposite; abdomen smooth and polished, ovate, a little longer than the thorax.

Malé.—Agrees with female except as follows: palpi fuscous, antennæ wholly black, clypeus nearly truncate anteriorly, antennal joints a little more distinctly separated than in the female, the first flagellar joint scarcely longer than the second, flagellar joints beyond the first subequal except the apical one which is about one and one-half times as long as the penultimate joint.

Type locality.—Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York.

Type.—Cat. No. 21604, U. S. N. M.

Host.—*Thelia bimaculata* Fabr.

One female and a male specimen sent to the Bureau of Entomology by Prof. S. I. Kornhauser, of Northwestern University, who is authority for the host record.

Subsequent to the drawing up of the above description, Prof. Kornhauser very kindly furnished the following note together with twenty additional specimens of the insect: "Specimens were reared from larvæ which bored through the sternites of the parasitized *Thelia*, dropped into jars of moist earth and there pupated. Fifty to seventy larvæ came from a single *Thelia*. This is a polyembryonic form. Oviposition takes place in early June, a single egg being deposited within the *Thelia* nymph. Emergence of full-grown larvæ takes place from the middle to the end of July."