

it again, and I secured it in a pill box. On my arrival at home I provided a jar with a few inches of dry sand in the bottom, and placed the larva in it; it at once buried itself, and though I waited several hours, hoping to witness the commencement of its pitfall, there was no movement in that direction; there was now and then a slight stir of the sand, and once or twice the head was thrust above the surface, but quickly withdrawn at the slightest movement on my part. I grew tired of watching and retired for the night, returning in the morning to find a completed pit. It was in the form of an inverted cone, about one and one-half inches in diameter and three-quarters deep, and as smooth as sand could be made. At the first glance I discovered no sign of the builder, but a closer inspection revealed a pair of mandibles and at the base of them a pair of eyes; the bearer of these was snugly ensconced in the sand. The mandibles were stretched to their widest capacity and resting against opposite sides of the pit, so harmonizing in color with the sand as not to be readily noticed. In this position the larva would rest for hours unless disturbed, when it would withdraw from sight, but soon reappear and resume its watch.

My great interest, however, was in its method of taking its prey, and to witness this operation I provided a dozen or more ants of a small species, dropping them all into the pit at once; the larva with one sweep of its jaws secured three or four, and in a very short time killed or disabled them, but it soon dropped them and proceeded to kill most of the others before commencing its repast. Owing to their sluggish habit but very few succeeded in escaping. I was curious to see if the larva would attack as readily larger and more savage species, and the next day secured the largest specimens I could find of the Red Ant, *Formica sanguinea*?—noted for its courage and ferocity. I dropped the largest of these on the sand in the jar, leaving it to find its way into the pit, which it soon did, hesitating a moment at the brink and then walking to the bottom. At the instant that the ant came within reach the larva closed its jaws upon one of its legs, and for a few moments I witnessed quite an exciting contest, the ant turning and twisting to find its adversary and biting savagely at everything within its reach, the larva endeavoring to draw far back into the sand, thereby protecting itself and pressing the ant so close to the surface as to allow but very little room for movement. The ant finally freed itself from the jaws of the larva, but did not at once succeed in leaving the pit; the larva instantly almost entirely uncovered itself and slashed right and left with its mandibles, seeming to be in a perfect fury at