

ON A LARVA OF MORDELLA.

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In previous numbers of the CAN. ENT. (vols. ix, p. 232, and viii, p. 137) I have given an account of a singular larva found in thorns of *Gleditschia triacanthos* or Honey Locust. I have never succeeded in rearing the imago from the larvæ found in the thorns, but the same larva—or one that I have not been able to distinguish from it—lives also in the pith of the “iron weed” (*Veronia*) and also in that of the “hog weed” or “horse weed,” *Ambrosia trifida*; and in the pith of these stems is also found a Lepidopterous larva which I have not been able to rear to the imago state, but which does not seem to differ from that of *Laverna gleditschæella* found in the thorns. Both larvæ, therefore, or larvæ not yet distinguished from them, inhabit the thorns of the Honey Locust, the Iron Weed and the Horse Weed. I have bred the Lepidopterous larva from the thorns; it is that of *Laverna gleditschæella* Cham., but I have not bred the “curious larva” from them. I have bred the “curious larva” from the Iron Weed, but not from the thorns on the *Ambrosia*. It proves to be the larva of a beetle allied to *Mordella*, if it does not, as I think it does, belong to that genus. I send a bred specimen herewith; it is, I think, a common species. Please give me its name.

From the fact that it feeds in the same stems with the *Lavernæ* larvæ, I thought it probable that the *Mordella* larva fed upon that of the *Laverna*, or upon some of the other larvæ found in the thorns of *Gleditschia*; but it is more probable that the fact simply is that the pith of these plants affords food to all of the species.

I have seen the *Mordella* larva eating its way through the pith, or rather cutting its way with its mandibles, for I never saw it swallow any of the pith, nor have I found any of it in the larval intestine. It may therefore be parasitic on the *Laverna* larva, in the sense that it eats the *Laverna* where it meets it in the stem. But it must be capable of feeding and growing for a long time without meeting the Lepidopterous larva, for it is frequently found in stems and thorns in which no other larvæ have been seen.

Besides the *Laverna* and *Mordella* larvæ, many others also—of other genera and orders—feed in the *Gleditschia* thorns, as I have already stated in the papers before referred to. Thus in these thorns I have found a