

An examination of the flowers showed that all the open flowers were punctured at the top of the bulb which forms the base of the corolla. I made a minute examination of the flowers to find out if the punctures were the work of other insects, but could find no other insect on or in any of the flowers, and also that none of the unopened flower buds showed any sign of puncture. Eventually, by the aid of a glass I found that the puncture was made from the outside and was ragged and torn, and ultimately I was fortunate in seeing one bee actually pierce the base of the corolla whilst I was observing it. As stated before, there were no other bees there except *Apis mellifica*; these were acting in a normal manner, seeking the honey through the centre of the flower, and in no case did I see one attempting to follow the example of the *occidentalis*.

The reason for this (to me, at least) strange action of *B. occidentalis* may possibly be explained by the fact that the tongue of *occidentalis* when fully extended is not nearly long enough to reach the honey sac, but the fact of the folds at the base of the petals being easily pried apart gave them ready access, and it is also probable that when they found a freshly-opened bud on which the folds of the petals had not yet commenced to separate that they found easy access by puncturing the corolla; they most assiduously hunted for a puncture and invariably thrust their tongue into it. Some of the flowers I examined had been punctured in several places. It would be interesting to know if this action of puncture is shared by any of the other bees, or if it is an invariable practice of *occidentalis* when attacking a flower having a deep-seated honey sac.

[NOTE.—*B. occidentalis* belongs to the same group of *Bombus* as the European species *terrestris*, which, it is well known, punctures with its mandibles the base of such flowers as Snapdragon and Broad-bean to obtain the nectar, thereby sometimes damaging the seed vessels. I have seen the workers of *B. terricola*, the representative of this group in Eastern Canada, puncturing the spur of *Impatiens biflora* and sucking the nectar through the wound thus made, though *B. vagans* and *fervidus* were observed obtaining the nectar by entering the flower in the legitimate way.—F. W. L. Sladen, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.]