

OVIPOSITION BY AN EVANIID, *EVANIA APPENDIGASTER* LINN.

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Recently the author and his wife witnessed oviposition by an ensign fly, *Evania appendigaster* Linn, in an egg mass of an Oriental cockroach, *Blatta orientalis* Linn.

On Sunday evening, August 8, 1920, as the female Evaniid drank from a drop of water which accidentally had been spilled upon the floor of our room she was captured by inverting an ordinary glass tumbler over her, slipping a piece of paper between the mouth of the tumbler and the floor upon which it rested. As this was done the Evaniid leaped upon the inside wall of the tumbler, soon becoming rather restless, for she ran over the inside surface of the glass and over the piece of paper upon which it rested.

Fortunately we had at our disposal an egg mass of a cockroach, *Blatta orientalis* Linn. which had been deposited in the morning of the same day that we captured the Evaniid. By slightly tipping the inverted tumbler we

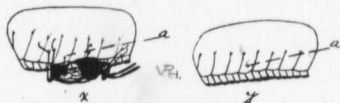


Fig. 23.—Oviposition of *Evania appendigaster* L.

shoved the Blattid egg mass beneath it. Much to our surprise almost immediately there in bright electric lamp light the Evaniid left the inside wall of the confining tumbler, ran over the Blattid ootheca, crawled over the surface momentarily as she actively vibrated her antenna and finally settled upon it with the long axis of her body parallel with the long axis of the egg mass as it lay upon its right side. Having satisfactorily settled herself, lying upon her right side she extended her ovipositor and crawling slightly forward she punctured the ootheca in the fifth egg cell of the left side, remaining in position for about fifteen minutes. She then left the egg mass and resting upon the inside wall of the tumbler actively cleaned the ovipositor, wings and antennae. Later, at 10.00 p.m. I turned the ootheca that it rested upon its left side. She revisited it but soon ran a short distance away and continued to clean her legs, wings and antennae. On the following day we introduced another freshly deposited egg mass of the same species of cockroach. The Evaniid visited it and running inquisitively around it several times she finally tried to turn it upon its opposite side by running across the middle of its length dragging the hind legs that they hooked the flanged edge of the ootheca. She failed to turn it completely over and left it, apparently little concerned by its presence.

X of the figure represents the ootheca of *Blatta orientalis* Linn. lying upon its right side and the Evaniid in position as she oviposits in the puncture which she has made at (a).

Y of the figure shows the ootheca still in the same position as in X, but the Evaniid has left it, showing the oviposition puncture at (a).