

fused with black. Head and thorax finely sculptured; abdomen very finely reticulately rugulose. Fore wings infuscated, opaque; marginal cilia very short; discal cilia very fine and dense.

(From 4 specimens, 2-3 inch objective, 1 inch optic, Bausch and Lomb.)

Male.—Unknown.

Described from two ♀ specimens caught while sweeping the forest slopes of Mount Pyramid, 1,500-2,500 feet, near Cairns; one ♀ caught while sweeping in a jungle, Goondi (Innisfail), N. Q.; and one ♀ received from the South Australian Museum, and labelled, "Cairns district, N. Q., A. M. Lea."

Habitat.—North Queensland (Mount Pyramid, near Cairns, Innisfail).

Type.—South Australian Museum, Adelaide, a ♀ tagmounted plus a slide bearing head, antennæ and forewings.

STRANGE ACTION OF *BOMBUS OCCIDENTALIS*.

BY J. WM. COCKLE, KASLO, B. C.

Whilst walking across my garden to-day I observed a number of bees disporting themselves on the flowers of some Chinese Cabbage that were running to seed.

On closer inspection I found that they were all *Bombus occidentalis* workers, with the exception of a very few *A. mellifica*. The *Bombus* were there in thousands, and their actions caused me to stop and watch them. Instead of settling and inserting their tongues amongst the pistils of the flower, they tumbled in every direction over the flower, and seemed to be looking for hidden treasure at the base of the corolla. Being unable to see what they were so assiduously hunting for, I sat down in the middle of the patch in order to get a closer observation.

They inserted their tongues in small holes at the base of the corolla and between the folds at the base of the petals. In many cases they seemed to have considerable difficulty in forcing an entrance, raising their bodies and thrusting the tongue down with force.