OBSERVATIONS ON ANTHRENUS VARIUS Fab., ANTHRENUS MUSÆORUM Lin., TROGODERMA ORNATA Say, AND SITODREPA PANICEA Lin.

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ANTHRENUS VARIUS *Fab.*—Entomologists generally are well enough acquainted with the appearance of this insect, and but too well with the work of its larvæ; but as to the time required for its development there is not the same unanimity of knowledge,—some stating that it requires a year for its various transformations; others, that only a few weeks are necessary. The following is my experience: May, 1879, I placed a female in a paper collar box with some refuse Coleoptera and Lepidoptera. This box stood on the mantel-piece in my office, and consequently the temperature was nearly uniform summer and winter. An examination two months afterwards revealed several small larvæ. These were inspected monthly, and appeared to have attained their growth by the 1st of December, though they remained active during the winter. The first pupæ were observed March 5th, and the first beetle on the 26th. From that time to May 1st thirty-five developed in all,—the product of this one beetle. Three females and two males were left in the box, and six weeks afterwards young larvæ were observed. They were inspected monthly, and followed the same course as observed the previous year. From April to May, (1881), seventy-five beetles were taken from the box. How many were left is unknown. The box was closed, and several months afterwards was found to be inhabited by countless multitudes of half-grown larvæ. These disclosed, as before, during the following April, (1882). The beetles and cast-off larvæ skins nearly filled the box, and the original food was reduced to a powder. They were numerous enough to have supplied all the cabinets on the globe. Box and all were consigned to the flames. This experiment shows that this insect is moderately prolific; that it is annual, at least in this instance, that it does not require water; that it can be propagated indefinitely without the male and female resorting to the open air, or tasting the sweets of flowers; and that the larvæ do not seek to escape from confinement by gnawing out. Experimenters should use two close fitting telescopic boxes of different sizes, one within the other, so as to prevent any possible escape of the larvæ.