

The solitary bees of the family Anthophoridæ are in general thickly clothed with hair, and many of them burrow into the earth, forming tunnels in which they form earthen cells, storing them with a supply of pollen and honey upon which the egg is laid and the cell is then closed.



Fig. 3.—Queen cells and worker brood of honey bees. (From Benton.)

Much good work can be done in the way of accurate observation upon the members of this group; the length of the larval life, duration of the egg stage, and other points have not been accurately followed out, although some of the European species are fairly well known. Certain species bore into wood instead of entering the earth, or they occupy old burrows of some carpenter bee. There are certain curious parasites of these bees, and the life of one of

them has been studied by the English observer Newport.

The cuckoo bees of the family Nomadidæ without exception live parasitically in the nest of other bees, and have undoubtedly originated from other bees through different lines of descent—probably from those of the group just mentioned. As their parasitic habits would prepare us to learn, their legs are without the scopæ for the carriage of pollen, and their life is practically that of the cuckoo, the female laying her eggs in cells already prepared by some more industrious and conscientious bee, and her larvæ living at the expense of the offspring of the cell-maker.



Fig. 4.—Queen of the common honey bee. (From Benton.)