

him to subject them to a more powerful glass than any I had, and give me the result. He presently (10th July) wrote: "Mr. Peck and myself have both carefully examined the larvæ for the gland which you thought might exist on the abdomen (11th segment), but we find none. . . . But why did you not speak of the two processes near the hind end of the body and suggest that these might be secretory organs? If the ants really obtain some sweet matter from the larvæ, then these are the organs through which it is emitted. They could hardly have escaped your notice, as they are visible to the naked eye, and distinctly under the magnifier. They are two short cylindrical projections, of perhaps twice the length of their diameter, giving out at their tops twenty or more barbed hairs. I could not determine whether these hairs covered the entire top, but I rather thought that they proceeded from a fissure extending across it, which perhaps could be dilated or contracted at will."

On reading this I at once made an excursion for more larvæ (now 13th July, and the flowers fast disappearing), and was fortunate in finding half a dozen. I also captured two of the ants and confined them with larvæ in a glass; so kept them for two days, examining them repeatedly. The ants were not restive under confinement, but devoted themselves to the larvæ, being almost all this time near them, going from one to another, at intervals operating after the manner before described. But at the end of the second day, getting impatient at the decrease or withholding of the object they sought, and making no allowance for the deficient food and untoward circumstances of the larvæ, they began viciously to bite and mangle them, and I was forced to conclude my observations and save any unhurt subjects in alcohol. All this time I was unable to discover the organs to which Mr. Lintner had called my attention. I was more certain, however, that whatever the ants were after came from the last three segments, and they constantly returned to the 11th. I had to regret that my attention had not been called to the whole matter a few weeks earlier.

But I sent one of the larvæ obtained 13th inst. to Mr. Lintner, and he wrote me thus on the 16th: "The larva came safely, but has since died from want of proper food. We could not find the organs on it of which I wrote you. They were not visible. After its death I discovered one, and by means of pressure disclosed the other. In the latter the armature of hairs was not thrown out, but I could discover them within the organ. I think they will prove to be excretive."