

earlier than at Ottawa, and as I intend to be on the alert myself, my work will be comparatively lessened if I could be favoured with the result of his observations. Not that I expect to find it upon the same plant, but from its affinities or properties I can easily select the plant.

"There is a matter connected with this insect that I do not understand, that is, the cause of its local restriction. I know that the generally received opinion is that the localization of certain insects, such as Diurnal Lepidoptera, depends upon the existence of certain plants equally circumscribed in their habits. In the present instance the principal part of the plants are more or less local, inhabiting bogs, marshes, and swamps; but the most rare are found in many similar places over the country, where this insect does not occur. What, then, can cause the restriction of this insect to a circumscribed spot? Certainly, not altogether because it contains a certain species of plant. I suspect rather that it is partly due to topographical and other conditions, which involves a problem not easily solved."

Since the above was in type, we observed in the *American Naturalist* June, 1868, p. 218, a note by Dr. Packard on this insect, in which he states that "the larva hybernates through the winter, and may be found in early spring feeding on the leaves of the Aster, the *Viburnum dentatum*, and the Hazel."—ED. C. E.

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#### PARASITES IN THE CELLS OF *VESPA MACULATA*, LINN.

I collected several specimens of the nests of *Vespa Maculata*, Linn., last fall, for the purpose of studying their architecture. The cells of two nests carried home in October were infested with Hymenopterous parasites; one of these, I suppose to be a *Microgaster*, issued from a covered cell a few days afterwards. I obtained five specimens from this cell,—in which they occupied a longitudinal position, and each separated by a thin cocoon. It is evidently a *Vespa* pupa parasite, as I noticed that several covered cells had been occupied by it.—Therefore it occurs to me that they issue about the beginning of September, and afterwards hibernate. The length of the parasite is five-sixteenths of an inch.

The second, which I suppose to be the *Vespa* larvæ parasite, occupies about two-thirds of the open cells of the wasp. Their exterior cocoons are chestnut colored, and of a triangular shape, occupying the sides, near the bottom of the cells, where, in many cases, there are two parasite larvæ covered by one exterior cocoon, while each larva is enclosed interiorly in a strong oblong silken cell. The cells containing these parasites have been kept in a warm room since last October, and although the larvæ are quite active [Jan. 25th], no visible change appears to me to have taken place since the day they were