

length of the larval condition is very uncertain; with plenty of food, development is rapid; but with lack of food, the larval period is extended to many months. Under normal conditions there are about six moults, and not more than two annual broods in Canada. When full-grown the larval skin splits down the back, showing the waxy white pupa inside, from which, in time, the perfect beetle emerges. (Fig. 19: *a*, larva, upper surface; *b*, under surface; *c*, pupa; *d*, beetle—all greatly magnified.)

Remedies.—When once established, this is a very hard pest to get free of. A few individuals will soon re-stock a whole house; so, thorough work is very necessary. As the beetles enter houses by windows, probably at night, fine mosquito netting should be put on early in the season. At house-cleaning time all carpets should be taken up regularly and thoroughly beaten out of doors. The floors, after thorough sweeping, should be scalded with hot water. When dry, benzine or gasoline should be driven into all crevices with an atomizer. Before replacing the carpets, the crevices of the floors should be well brushed out and the floors dusted with a mixture of equal parts of pyrethrum insect powder and ground cloves. If the odour is not objectionable, strips of tarred building paper may be put round the edges of the rooms beneath the carpets. In chests of drawers, etc., the contents should be frequently examined and small bags containing ground cloves should be packed away in them. The remarkable preference of this insect for articles of red colour has led some to lay rolls of red flannel in drawers to act as traps. These must be taken out and scalded at short intervals.

BEES COLLECTED BY THE REV. G. BIRKMANN IN TEXAS.

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(Continued from page 267).

Melissodes grandissima, n. sp.

♀.—Length nearly 19 mm.; length of anterior wing about 13 mm.; breadth of abdomen in middle 7 mm.; in all respects like *M. Comanche*, Cresson (co-type compared), except as follows: Abdomen broader; fourth segment without a bare median area, the broad grayish-white band continued right across; fifth and sixth segments with the hair purplish-black, except the long hair at sides, which is paler and redder; hair of venter not so red; hair of inner side of basal joint of hind tarsi reddish-black, ferruginous basally; wings hardly so dark; black hair-patch on mesothorax

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