

were no shallow grooves, denoting lines of demarcation. With this unimportant difference, the general outline of the mud mass, with its combination of pellets, was exactly similar to that constructed by the mud-dauber. Had the lines of separation existed, I should have had no hesitancy in characterizing it as a case either of usurpation of instinct upon the part of the *Megachile*, or one of confiscation of property.

Within, exposed to view by detachment from the aforesaid rafters, were what I supposed to be the leafy cells of *Megachile*. The length of these and the peculiar disposition of their parts, materially different from what I had always observed, operated upon my mind to such an extent that I was almost constrained to believe that I had met with something altogether new to science, or else that I had been fortunate enough to discover a species of *Pelopcus* with *Megachile*-like habits.

Each cell was one and one-eighth inches in length, with a diameter slightly exceeding one-fourth of an inch. It was built of elliptical pieces snipped from the leaves of a species of *Spiræa* (*S. corymbosa*, it seemed to me.) The pieces were of less dimensions than those before alluded to, and arranged somewhat on a similar plan, except that there was a strong appearance of a double cell, as if the inferior concavity of one cell had been deposited in the superior concavity or mouth of the other. This resemblance held true to a certain extent, but the absence of a clear line of division between the two seemed to militate against the idea of a double arrangement.

Having kept a few of the cells a reasonable length of time, until all hope of seeing insects emerge therefrom had vanished, I began the work of destruction by carefully pulling some of them to pieces. While engaged in my labor I was led to notice the comparative ease with which each relative structure separated in the middle. Within the aperture of one cell was a cylindrical pouch, composed of pure silk, glazed within by an oily secretion from the larva. This contained a perfect, but dead bee, which was readily identified as *Megachile centuncularis*. The lower half of the same enclosed a similar silken sack, with fragments of legs, wings, antennæ and complete body segments, with a mass of debris which showed the clearest evidence of the ravages of some ruthless destroyer. Under a glass of moderate power, I had little difficulty in recognizing the fragments as parts of a *Megachile* similar to the above.

This last fact impressed me as peculiarly interesting and novel, as showing the economy which exists and is practiced among certain