

the caterpillar in place when dry: the extremities of the parted wires should reach nearly to the head. Nothing remains but to curve the doubled end of the wire tightly around a pin with a pair of strong forceps and to place the specimen properly labelled, in a place where it can dry thoroughly for two or three days before removal to the cabinet.

For more careful preservation and readier handling, Mr. Goossens employs a different method, placing each specimen in a glass tube, like the test tube of the chemist. The wire is first bent in the middle and the bent end inserted in a hole bored in the smaller end of a cork of suitable size, so as nearly to pass through it; the loops are then formed as above; both ends of the cork are varnished, and a label pasted around the portion of the cork which enters the tube, thus guarding both specimen and label from dust, and the latter from loss or misplacement. After two or three days the cork with the caterpillar attached is placed in its corresponding tube, and the tube may be freely handled.

Modifications of this system will occur to every one. Dr. Gemminger uses a syringe for the extraction of the contents as well as for the inflation of the emptied skin. For an oven, the Vienna entomologists employ an ordinary gas-chimney, open at both ends and inserted in a sand bath, which prevents, perhaps, the danger of too great heat.

TRANSLATION OF THE SYNOPSIS OF THE GENERA OF EUROPEAN MYCETOPHILIDÆ.

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The Diptera, generally considered, are less attractive than other orders of insects, and appear to be more insignificant, but are the most useful on account of their excessive abundance and of their purification of matter and thereby of the atmosphere. In like manner, the Diptera may be divided into more or less numerous and beneficial tribes, and the work assigned to the former is the removal of decaying substances. The fungus race is in subjection to the Mycetophilidæ, and are the means for the development of the perfect state of the latter, according to the law whereby degradation precedes the attainment of a higher state, and this law is exemplified in minerals, plants and animals. In like manner the