

indistinguishable. Every collector or hunter knows the value of immobility in concealment. Certainly every collector has felt the impulse to give voice to some strongly emphatic expletive on losing a coveted specimen which on being approached drew its legs close to its body and dropped to the ground where it remained effectively hidden from his disappointed eyes. We should be careful, however, not to lay too much emphasis on the advantages of this action because it is hardly probable that the natural enemies of these insects are quite as readily outwitted as we are. Indeed the instinct may in some animals be not only useless but positively injurious. • This is true of certain birds which, when pursued, instead of seeking safety in flight or shelter, feign death in the open where they may be easily captured.

There have been several explanations given of the nature of the death feint. Certainly there is no consciousness involved, and the instinct is merely a physico-chemical reaction to external stimulus. The most probable theory is that in the death feint we have an example of negative thigmotaxis, that shrinking from contact characteristic of so large a proportion of all classes of animals.

A NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS TETRAMERINX (DIPTERA, ANTHOMYIIDÆ).

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The genus *Tetramerinx* belongs to the subfamily *Cœnosiina* of the *Anthomyiidae*, and may be distinguished from its allies by the presence of 4 post-sutural dorso-central bristles on the mesonotum. The females are readily distinguished from any allied genus except *Phyllogaster* by the peculiar clawlike processes on the apical abdominal segment.

Stein described the genus under the name *Tetrachæta*, but this name was preoccupied and subsequently was replaced by *Tetramerinx* by Berg.

KEY TO SPECIES.

1. Third antennal joint not over twice as long as second (Ill.).....*brevicornis*, sp. n.