

A REARING OF MELITTOBIA.

On the 21st September, 1891, on opening a small box of neglected insects, etc., I caught a glimpse of several minute black flies as they flew out. At the time I could not imagine what they were. The next day I collected a lot of pupæ of Tachina flies and enclosed them in tin boxes to transform to imagines, but instead of the perfect fly appearing, the boxes were filled with the same small flies as I had observed issue from the opened box on the day previous, and then, as I remembered having had some of those Tachina puparia in the box, I readily understood whence the flies came. The pupæ from which those little black hyperparasites were bred were taken from the cells of the common Mud-dauber wasp. Afterwards I observed two specimens of this secondary parasite creep from a minute opening in the end of a pinned pupa of the primary Tachina fly which I had taken from a Mud dauber's cell and put in my cabinet. I mailed specimens of this species to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, where it was identified as *Melittobia pelopaci*. This shows that the species of Melittobia are not exclusively parasitic on Hymenopterous insects, but are sometimes secondary parasites. As Mr. L. O. Howard wrote that the species of Melittobia had heretofore been reared only from Hymenopterous insects, I thought this rearing of *M. pelopaci* from Dipterous puparia might prove of interest.

A. N. CAUDELL,

Ringo, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, U. S.

[Interesting papers on this genus will be found in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, Vol. II., No. 2, viz:—"Notes on the genus Melittobia," by W. H. Ashmead (p. 228), and "The habits of Melittobia," by L. O. Howard (p. 224).—ED. C. E.]