

when plugged up with clay, assumes the appearance of a button, is probably to prevent the caterpillars first enclosed in the nest from escaping before the full complement of food is made up."

"No. 2 (*Can. Nat.*, Dec. 1865, p. 461) is the nest of a wasp belonging to *Pompilide*, and differing from true *Pompilus* in having the front legs of the female nearly smooth. I have bred four or five different species from nests of similar structure, most of them found under dry bark, but one species occurring always under logs where the ground is moist. One of the former species is largely infested by an undescribed ichneumon fly belonging to the genus *Mesostenus*. The kind you figure is the smallest kind that I have bred from, some kinds being twice as long." In a subsequent communication, Mr. Walsh states that "the insect that forms the cell No. 2 belongs, I believe, to St. Fargeau's genus *Anoplus*; and on account of the legs being unarmed in the female he concludes it to be 'parasitic' in his sense of the term, or what Hartig calls an 'Inquiline,' and I have called in English a 'Guest-fly.' It is plain, however, that the reason why the legs of the female are unarmed is because it builds a clay nest and does not dig one out either in wood or in the ground. For the same reason, our common mud-wasp (*Pelopæus lunatus* Fabr.) has the legs of the female but very slightly armed with spines."

It will be seen from the above, that Mr. Walsh has bred four or five species belonging to the genus that produced my nest No. 2, and that the nests were all of similar structure,—but these species, he adds, differ from the true *Pompilus*, by having the front legs of the females devoid of spines. I am sorry that it is not in my power at present to obtain additional information regarding the species occurring in Canada; but it may be safely inferred that they do not belong to *Pompilus* proper. The habits of these insects differ, as he states, in that the majority of the species build under dry bark of trees, while one species constructs cells under logs, &c., in damp places. It may be found that this difference is a selection to suit the larva-food which may be of another kind from that found in the cells made under bark. Many of the mud-building wasps that construct dry cells provide their larvæ with caterpillars and spiders, which the parent insect stupefies with a kind of aculeate poison that keeps them fresh for many days. It is, therefore, probable that the similarly-formed cells found under logs in damp, muddy places, may be supplied with a larva-food requiring moisture to keep it fresh while the larvae are feeding.* It would please me greatly, if some young Entomological student of Ontario

* During the progress of these articles, it is my intention to make occasional remarks on the similarity of nests formed by Canadian Insects, embracing distinct genera in the