

There was a little fire burning in a low grate, and into this I began throwing the insect debris. As I tried to pick up some of the slippery *Anthrenus* larvæ I noticed among them what seemed to be tiny brown ants. I had never seen any ants in the cedar-closet, so wetting my finger I lifted one of the little creatures and dropped it into a poison bottle. When it was quiet I took it out and examined it with my magnifying glass. It was no ant, but—what was it? I had never seen anything resembling it. Indeed, for a time I was not sure even to what order it belonged. Was it hemipterous, hymenopterous, coleopterous, or what? I put a half dozen specimens into the bottle, and a little later mounted two of them on a card triangle and sent them to Mr. Liebeck, in Philadelphia, for identification. At this juncture I felt no excitement, not much curiosity. Though quite unfamiliar to me, the species was probably well known to experienced entomologists as a museum pest; thus I thought to myself. But next day came a postal from Mr. Liebeck. He did not recognize my capture; had seen nothing like it; had it not been introduced with some of my specimens from South Florida? he asked. "It is a very curious insect, apterous, you see. Though provided with jaws and elytra, the usual characteristics of coleoptera, its antennæ seem very peculiar ones for a beetle. But I will examine it further and report." Thus he wrote, and I began to feel the first thrill of interest. This certainly could not be a familiar museum pest if such an experienced entomologist as Mr. Liebeck failed to recognize it. I went back to my box of infested moths and sought more specimens of the cunning little pest, securing about twenty specimens. These I carried with me to the mountains when I went there the latter part of May. Soon after my arrival in Franconia I sent specimens to Mr. Frederick Blanchard, and he wrote concerning them: "These beetles are very queer indeed; I haven't at present the slightest idea what they are related to. They reminded me at first sight of certain small Hemiptera. I hope to send you something further about them before very long."

A fortnight later Mr. Blanchard wrote again: "The very remarkable little beetle which you found devouring your specimens with *Anthrenus* is still an interrogation. I can, so far, find nothing at all like it in any of my boxes. A week ago I sent sketches with details, asking Henshaw's aid, but I haven't a word from him yet. The beetle is so very peculiar it should be easily identified if well known. The antennæ appear to be entire and alike in both specimens, but with only nine joints, 3-5 being