

The duration of the feint may be momentary or it may exceed an hour. There is little uniformity either in individuals of the same species or in the same individual during successive feints. I have never found any gradational relation between the duration of successive feints, but Fabre found that in the beetle *Scarites gigas* the duration increased with each successive feint. With *Tychius picirostris* the longest feint may occur at any place in a succession of feints, but the average duration of the earlier feints is greater than that of those occurring later in the series. Turner had the same results with the ant-lion, and Gee and Lathrop the the Severins, and other workers have also failed to observe any definite relation in the duration of successive feints.

Most insects will feign again and again if stimulated. The number of successive feints is, however, limited. An insect after responding to a larger or smaller number of shocks will finally refuse to respond further. If allowed to rest, however, it will again respond.

In some cases—a well known example is the golden-rod chrysomelid *Trirhabda canadensis*—the insect may feign death on the near approach of the collector; in others the feint is not normally elicited until the insect is touched. Within the same species, however, the intensity of the shock seems to have no effect on the intensity or duration of the feint.

Both the collector and the economic entomologist have taken advantage of the death feint. One of the best known cases in which the economic entomologist enlists the aid of this instinct is the destruction of the plum curculio by jarring the trees. Scott and Fiske in an account of their work on the control of this pest in a Georgia peach and plum orchard give a list of other insects collected by jarring the trees for the curculio. This list includes two hundred and sixty-nine species of Coleoptera representing thirty-one families; seventy-one species of Hemiptera-Heteroptera representing eleven families; and eight species of Homoptera representing three families. Other orders were represented, but the numbers were so few that these insects were not listed.

The advantage of the death feigning instinct to its possessor is doubtful. When an animal resembles its surroundings in colour or form, the ability to remain perfectly still makes it practically