

pose—to allow a free circulation of air, and to keep off too much moisture from the eggs. This nest is suspended by a silken thread from the acute end generally in a cavity of the inner bark. It contains from seven to ten unattached eggs. When the young spiders attain the parent form, they issue from the nest by a small hole at the latter end, which was formerly made by the parent for the purpose of introducing the eggs. I cannot say that the Canadian spider, which formed the above cocoon is identical with the European *T. variegatum*, Walck. But in order to show that the architecture is the same, I quote from the *Entomologist Weekly Intelligencer*, April 26, 1856: "On the 13th inst. I found, under the bark of an old hornbeam, at Hainault Forest, a little spider's nest, about the size of a pea, shaped like a balloon, covered with flossy silk of a fine red-brown color, and containing seven pellets, which had free motion. It was supported on a flexible foot-stalk, being altogether nearly half an inch in length, and formed one of the prettiest objects imaginable.—J. W. DOUGLAS."

The second form of nest or cocoon was found attached to the exterior bark of a birch tree at Quebec. It is sub-spherical, and measures $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an inch in diameter. The interior covering is composed of a fine flossy, white silk, covered with numerous irregular red brown threads, similar to those described on the former species. The spider is unknown to me, but from its form and material, I have no doubt of its belonging to the genus *Theridion*.

The third form of nest is still more remarkably beautiful, and undoubtedly the work of a species of *Theridion*. It is always found under bark of trees, suspended to a thread about an inch in length. Its shape is oblong, acute at both ends, and composed of white silk. Although the exterior is covered with a coarse coating of silken threads, it is so transparent that the eggs can easily be counted. I have found its architecture at Quebec and Ottawa, and I have a vague recollection of finding it at Toronto. Not having been successful in rearing this species, I shall be glad to receive any information regarding its habits.

The fourth nest was found attached to a fence at Quebec. Although I have some doubts regarding the authenticity of the architect, its form and the manner in which it was suspended are the only reasons for classing it near the above genus. The curious part of this little nest is that it is not constructed of silk, but formed of woody fibre taken from the weather-worn fence on which it was found. At first, I doubted that it was the work of an Arachnid, but on close observation, I detected the button of silk by which it was attached to the fence. Its form is spherical, measuring one-fourth of an inch in diameter. The pedicel is short, strongly made of woody fibre and silk, and it was firmly attached to the fence. This is the second instance that came under my observation of spiders using other material than silk to cover themselves while undergoing moult, or protecting their eggs when in the nest. I recollect