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## A COLEOPTEROUS CONUNDRUM.

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A year ago, May 1902, I had a peculiar entomological experience. I had returned from Florida to my home in New York about the middle of April, had spent two or three weeks arranging and classifying my captures of the winter, sending off duplicates and doubtful species to specialists, and preparing my collection for the summer months of my absence. A full fortnight must pass before I should leave town for my New Hampshire summer home, and I already pined for a little collecting. Suddenly I recalled the existence of some old boxes of insects which had been crowded out of my regular collection-room some years before. They were in a closet opening from a hall on the second floor. This closet had been built especially for the preservation of woollen clothing and its protection from ravages of the devouring moth, its walls, shelves and drawers being made of red cedar. But after a period of many years—nearly forty, I think—the wood has lost its protective odour, and the place is often visited by insect pests. It, however, still bears the name of the "cedar-closet," and here had been stored for several years the overflow from my collection. In a leisure hour, one chilly May day, feeling a touch of the entomologist's fitful fever, I said to a friend, in a sportive mood, "I am going to try the cedar-closet, who knows what discoveries I may make in those old boxes of bugs?" As unconscious of the great discovery awaiting me there as was probably Isaac Newton before that attractively gravitating apple fell to the ground, I started on my quest. The first box I opened contained lepidoptera from Franconia, chiefly moths, taken several years before, and of little value or rarity. It was a wreck, clouds of dust rose from it as I lifted the cover, and broken bits of wings and bodies rolled about as I moved the box. Disagreeable, stealthy *Anthrenus* larvæ, of all sizes, glided about among the ruins. Of course this must be attended to, and the infested specimens thrown away; so I carried the box with its contents to my room for further examination.