

This is the condition to which the term "death feint" is usually applied, but it is difficult to draw a sharp line of demarcation between this and the reaction of the ruby wasps, between the attitude of ruby wasps and that of the carrion and rove beetles, or between the attitude of these beetles and the rigid attitude of the yellow-necked apple-tree caterpillar.

The death feint varies greatly in degree. On the one hand we have certain insects which when disturbed remain momentarily quiet, becoming active again almost immediately. On the other hand we have De Geer's classical example, *Anobium pertinax*. Kirby and Spence referring to this insect and in part quoting De Geer say: "All that has been related of the heroic constancy of American savages when taken and tortured by their enemies scarcely comes up to that which these little creatures exhibit. You may maim them, pull them limb from limb, roast them alive over a slow fire, but you will not gain your end; not a joint will they move nor show by the least symptoms that they suffer pain,"* and they naively continue: "do not think, however, that I ever tried these experiments upon them myself, or that I recommend you to do the same." In spite, however, of the admonition of the learned authors of the *Introduction of Entomology* several workers have repeated these experiments and found that the case of *Anobium* is an extreme one and that the majority of feigning insects gradate between this extreme and the other in which the loss of activity is but momentary. In *Tychius picirostris*, for example, the writer finds that while the legs and antennae of the feigning insect may be cut off without eliciting any symptoms of activity, more drastic disturbances such as decapitation or severing the trunk always cause the insect to resume its activity. In the same insect it was found impossible to elicit the feigning response on a hot surface, and an insect in the death feint placed on a hot surface immediately became active and tried to escape. Cold, on the other hand, very greatly increased the duration of the feint.

*Compare Holmes on the feint of the Pekinese tern. "You may pull them about, stretch out their legs, neck or wings and place them in the most awkward positions, and they will remain as limp and motionless as if really dead. They will even suffer their wing and tail feathers to be plucked out one by one without a wince."