

within a foot or two of the surface while one, viz., *L. rugosa*, was found at depths varying from 47 to 91 inches. Mention was also made of the remarkable manner in which skunks sought out the larvæ for food, thus doing much good. An interesting discussion followed on the habits and food of skunks in general.

Mr. Sladen exhibited twelve species of wasps of the genus *Odynerus* taken in the Ottawa district and described the habits of *O. spinipes*, a European species. It provisions its cell with small green caterpillars. The egg is attached to the roof of the cell by a thread so that it is not disturbed by the wriggling victims. He also showed a parasitic bee, *Coelioxys ruftarsus*, with its host, *Megachile latimanus*, a leaf-cutter bee, and explained how, according to Graenicher, the parasite pierces the leaves lining the cell of the *Megachile* by means of its conical sharp-pointed abdomen, and inserts its egg. The *Coelioxys* larva is at first provided with enormous mandibles with which it kills the *Megachile* larva, but after the first moult the mandibles are of the small size found in other bee larvæ, and thence forward it feeds entirely on the pollen that the *Megachile* has provided. Mr. Harrington remarked that in Ottawa, as in England, *Megachile* is very fond of cutting circles out of the leaves of the garden rose to line its cells. It also often chooses maple leaves. He had noticed that if the surroundings of a solitary bee's or wasp's nest were disarranged the insect could not find its way in. It seemed to have committed to memory every detail; this was done by circling round the spot many times. Mr. Sladen said that queen bumble bees he had got to lay eggs in captivity, when allowed to fly, never returned, though they marked the spot carefully, and he believed they lost the power to learn the position of their nest as soon as they began to lay.

Mr. Strickland spoke upon the subject of parasites in *Simulium* larvæ. After briefly describing the aquatic habits and structure of the early stages of the Black fly, and pointing out the interest that is centred upon this fly as the possible carrier of the human disease Pellagra, he gave an account of the parasites he had found infecting their larvæ in the streams in the vicinity of Boston, U.S. These consisted of a worm and various protozoa, all of which were fatal to their larval host, and occurred in sufficient numbers to be of considerable economic value. The worm is a species of *Mermis* that inhabits the abdominal region of the body cavity, where it lives coiled up and almost motionless absorbing the body fluids of its host, till the latter is full grown. It then ruptures the skin and escapes, killing the larva in the process. When the worm only is present it is 3 cm. long, or about three times the length of its host. As many as 12 were found in one larva, in which case they all