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ON *CÆLOPISTHIA NEMATICIDA* PACK., A CHALCID
PARASITE OF THE LARGE LARCH SAWFLY,
LYGÆONEMATUS ERICHSONII HARTIG.*

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In the course of a study of the European and North American parasites of the Large Larch Sawfly, *Lygæonematus erichsonii* Hartig, which was begun several years ago, observations have been made on the life-history of this Chalcid parasite. Its abundance in the cocoons of *L. erichsonii* kept under observation would indicate that it is an important factor in the natural control of the sawfly in the Eastern States and Canada, and for this reason and also because hitherto it has been undescribed, the present account is written.

Packard† first referred to this parasite in the account of his investigations on *Lygæonematus erichsonii* which were made immediately after the latter insect had been discovered as a forest pest in the United States and Canada. He says :

"A number of cocoons sent us in 1882 by Mr. Atkins were found to be in every case tenanted by a minute chalcid parasite, belonging to the genus *Pteromalus*. If new it may be called *Pteromalus nematicida* (Plate XII, Fig. 8). About a hundred of these issued from the cocoons in the breeding-box during May, 1883. This parasite must, therefore, be a most destructive enemy of the larch worm."

Beyond the figure of the parasite, which is given and again reproduced with the above account in the Fifth Report of the United States Entomological Commission (1890), no further description is given. From the correspondence printed in this account of the injuries of the sawfly it would appear that Mr. Charles F. Atkins collected the aforementioned cocoons in Maine.

No further description of this insect, so far as I am aware, has been published since Packard provisionally named it.

*Contributions from the Division of Entomology, Ottawa.

†In "The Report of the Entomologist," "Ann. Rept. of the Commissioner of Agriculture, 1883," Washington, D.C., pp. 138-142.