

A RECENTLY DISCOVERED GENUS AND SPECIES OF
AQUATIC HYMENOPTERA.

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In the Annales Soc. Ent. de France, LXIX., p. 171, P. Marchal publishes an article entitled "Sur un nouvel Hyménoptère aquatique, le *Limnodytes gerriphagus*, n. gen., n. sp."

Mr. Marchal is to be complimented on his discovery and observation of the habits of this very interesting insect, but it is deeply to be regretted that the generic name which he has chosen is preoccupied, hence it becomes necessary to change it, and desirable to do so at once, before it becomes widely known. The name *Limnodytes* was employed by Dumeril and Bibron in their "Erpétologie générale," Vol. VIII., 1841, p. 510, for a genus of salamanders, hence I propose in its place the term TIPHODYTES, nov. name.

In this connection I may apropos make a few remarks, gathered from Marchal's paper, concerning the habits and relations of this insect.

Metchnikoff, and after him Ganin, mentioned finding an unknown species of *Teleas* as a parasite on the eggs of *Gerris* (Hemiptera-Heteroptera). Marchal found the present species during the month of May, in the pond of Trivaux, Meudon, near Paris, also parasitizing the eggs of *Gerris*, but he considers it distinct, although closely related to the one found by Metchnikoff and Ganin. On the 12th of May he collected eggs which were animated with the larvæ of the parasite. These eggs were always arranged along the lower surface of Potamogeton leaves. The larvæ differed from those figured by Ganin in the arrangement of the hair and brevity of the caudal cornus. In June, four female and two male adults hatched, and these used their wings for swimming in any direction through the water, with a leisurely movement. When they came to the surface they had to make an effort to pass through it into the air, where they readily took flight. Likewise, in entering the water the insect bent its head forward and made a visible effort to conquer the resistance offered by the surface film, unless it entered on the edge of a projecting leaf or twig.

My excuse for entering at length here into an abstract and discussion of Marchal's article is because aquatic examples of the Hymenoptera are very few, and the fact that winged adults of such an order should enter and swim in the water must interest many entomologists who will never see the original article.