ELAPHIDION VILLOSUM, Fab.

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The account of this insect given by the early fathers of Œconomic Entomology is so charming that it seems almost profane to disturb a history accepted by most of their credulous offspring with unquestioning faith.   Its wonderful habits and supra-rational instincts have been stock in trade ever since, and, like the fiction of the fly walking on glass by a sucker arrangement of its feet, is likely to hold its place in paste and scissor literature for all time to come.

Divested of all romance and imagination, and descending to facts, the observations of Professor Peck, Fitch and Harris may be reduced to this. In the month of July the parent lays the eggs on the limbs, or in the axil of a leaf near the end of the twigs of that year's growth of various species of oak, and perhaps other trees.   After hatching, the young larva (in the latter case) penetrates to the pith and devours it downwards till the woody base is reached, and so onward to the centre of the main limb ; here it eats away a considerable portion of the inside of the limb, and then plugging the end of the burrow, which it excavates towards the distal end, eventually falls to the ground with the limb, which being weakened, is broken off by the high autumnal winds.   They exist here either as larvæ or pupæ till spring, and emerge in June as perfect beetles.   Time, one year, though not so stated in words.

The account given in detail below is so different from the above, that were the identity of the individuals not established by actual comparison and by recognized authority, it might well be asserted I had given an account of some other *Elaphidion*.

April, 1883, I procured a barrel of hickory limbs from a tree girdled early in 1882 ; the limbs were from one-half to one inch in diameter. Very few things developed from them that season ; but the next (1884) quite a number of species came forth—*Clytanthus ruricola* and *albofasciatus, Neoclytus luscus* and *erythrocephalus, Stenosphenus notatus*, etc.