

an ichneumon depicted with her ovipositor fully inserted in the tree and with the *side-pieces or sheaths sticking straight out behind her*. Such an attitude is altogether unnatural, and I am convinced that in that position she would be powerless to extract the ovipositor.

Selecting a suitable tree, if we find no ichneumons at work, we may shortly see one flying strongly and noisily through the sunny woods and settling upon the bark where perforations mark the exits of previous occupants. Here she runs around until she finds a promising spot, as, for instance, the hole made by a Tremex in depositing her egg. Placing herself so that the tip of her abdomen will be above the orifice to be probed, she makes herself as tall as possible, and, by elevating her abdomen and curving under the ovipositor, succeeds in inserting the tip of the latter in the hole.

If the dorsal surface of the abdomen be examined, there will be observed, between the sixth and seventh segments, a gap closed by a whitish membrane. This marks an admirable contrivance to enable the insect to use her seemingly unwieldy weapon, for the membrane is capable of being so dilated as to form a cavity in the posterior part of the abdomen, in which can be coiled a large portion (more than one-third) of the ovipositor, which thus becomes perpendicular under the insect, where it is guided and supported by the sheaths which bend up in loops over her back. By vigorous muscular contractions of the sac, the delicate ovipositor is slowly forced down the larva's burrow, often to its full extent. If a larva be reached an egg is deposited in it, and the ovipositor is slowly withdrawn in a similar manner. This, however, the insect is frequently unable to accomplish, and remains struggling until some bird or tree-toad snaps her up, or she perishes from exhaustion.

I have seen a large *R. atrata* with her ovipositor (five and one-quarter inches long) inserted four and one-half inches into a beech, so firmly that it was only by careful and vigorous pulling that I extracted it uninjured.

The insects are to be found during the latter part of the summer; *R. lunator*, as already mentioned, being much the more abundant.

On the last day of June, 1879, while collecting in a grove just beyond Rideau Hall, I stopped to examine a dead tree for bark and fungi beetles, and was bottling a fine *Penthe pimelia*, when the rustling of insect wings above me attracted my attention. Looking up I saw several specimens of *lunator* flying about the trunk, and a circuit of the tree with closer inspection showed many others walking about on the bark or in various