

1888, found a specimen of *Ips 4-signatus* in a jug of milk. The last "find" was a rather curious one, but the specimen was quite fresh, and had evidently been "supplied" with the morning's milk. No specimens of *fasciatus* were observed during the summer months, so that my experience appears to have been just the reverse of Dr. Hamilton's.

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INSECTS FEIGNING DEATH.

Dear Sir: I have read with much interest Mr. A. R. Grote's communications upon the subject of "Insects Feigning Death," glad always of the opportunity of learning from the older members of the entomological fraternity. But in this case I am not sure that I comprehend the gentleman's meaning. In the June number of the CAN. ENT. he expresses a doubt in regard to insects possessing any knowledge of death, and hence considers that they are not mentally capable of feigning death. In the August number he again takes up the subject and says, "It is probable to me that their attitudes of repose are assumed from the experience they have gradually acquired, that in a state of quiet they will best avoid the immediate dangers which beset them, etc." Immediate dangers of what? Physical pain, a knowledge of which they have gained by frequent captures and escapes? It strikes me that it is not only not this, but death itself which they seek to avoid. With no knowledge of death, as such, why should they seek to avoid it? Is it not true that all animal life is doomed to die sooner or later? And is not a knowledge of the fact that it is something to be feared and avoided as long as possible, necessary to the perpetuation of species? Surely even insects would not seek to avoid that of which they have no knowledge. Does not the very presence of the sense of fear presuppose a knowledge of death, in the sense of annihilation? If the larva of a *Geometer* has learned, no matter whether by experience or instinct, that by assuming a certain rigid position resembling a portion of the twig upon which it is itself located, it is thereby enabled to escape destruction in common with the twig; might not another species, by the same course of reasoning, learn that, to assume the same inanimate position as a dead companion who is not carried away, it also might escape? Beetles belonging to the genera *Chlamys* and *Exema*, of the family *Chrysomelidae*, will often drop from a seemingly