

The relationship of these species to any known species was only inferentially established. It is true that the leaves of several oaks on which I found one species very abundant, were almost all covered with galls of *C. q. futilis*, *O. S.*, but the females of this species were not so large as my new bud stinging species.

I have, for the past three years, carefully examined the buds of *Q. ilicifolia*, hoping to find the producer of *C. q. operator* at work, but without success, till this week, when I found no less than thirty gall flies ovipositing in the buds of this oak.

That they really are the producers of these galls needs no further proof than I now give. The insect *C. q. operator* is distinguished from all our other species by the projection of the ovipositor above the dorsum. In this respect it resembles the several species of guest gall flies that infest almost all our species of galls. It has, however, the venation of the true gall flies. In size my insects are considerably larger than *C. q. operator*, but in form, color, venation of the wings, and, above all, in the peculiar form and position of the sheath of the ovipositor, they are like this species.

Few will doubt their identity; but to make "assurance doubly sure," I hope some one will be so fortunate as to raise gall flies from these acorn galls, when a comparison with mine will settle the question whether this particular species (*C. q. operator*) is double brooded or not.

I wish (if my article is not already too long) to state a few other facts and to show their bearing upon the history of these interesting insects.

There stands not far from my house a small oak tree, *Q. bicolor*, which is almost ruined by the ravages of a species of gall fly, which closely resembles and may be identical with *C. q. botatus*, Bassett. Every summer the leaves of this tree are so injured by the galls that scarcely one perfect one can be found on the tree. The petioles and midveins are enlarged to the size of one's finger, and the blade shrivels up or remains undeveloped, and each gall contains a large number of insects which come out in June. I have reared many thousands of these gall flies and find them of both sexes—about equally divided.

Late in the summer another form of gall appears, this time on the ends of the small branches, and the insects remain in these, in the imago, through the winter. I have reared not less than fifteen thousand of these gall flies and *all are females*, and they cannot be distinguished from the