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## A Long-Lifed Woodboring Beetle

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## A LONG-LIFED WOODBORING BEETLE.

H. E. JAQUES

Early in April of 1917, Mrs. C. B. Doe, living in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, called the writer to her home to see what proved to be a matured larva of a Cerambycid. This white larval form about an inch in length, together with about 50 cc. of wood chewings, had been shaken from a round hole just discovered in one of the pieces of an imitation mahogany book case.

The "monster" had already been viewed by others of the community and the suggestions that had been made to preserve the piece of furniture from ruin were as amusing as they were unscientific. The larva was placed in a box. In about two weeks it had pupated and in a few days more had emerged as a normal specimen of *Eburia quadrigeminata* Say.

It is interesting to note that while the food plants of this species are given by Blatchley as Hickory, Ash, and Honey Locust, the piece of the book case in which it had spent its growing days was birch. While the piece was less than an inch in thickness, there was no indication of the borer reaching either surface during its migrations except at the place of its final exit.

The bookcase has been in the possession of Mrs. Doe and in continued use for nineteen years. It came to its present owner from the household effects of the mother-in-law. The original owner, Mrs. Doe insists, owned the piece of furniture for about twenty-five years. There seems to be no doubt that the figures given for the age of the infested piece of wood are reliable. If the egg was laid before the wood was worked up, as is believed, the beetle in question must have been more than forty years developing.

Mr. J. McNeil writing in the *American Naturalist*, Volume XX, p. 1055, tells of two long horns, which strangely enough were of this same species, emerging from an ash door-sill that had been in place nineteen years. In that case the relation of the tunnels to the solid brick wall on which the door-sill rested, seems to have made it certain that the eggs must have been laid in the wood before the house was built.

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