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Oviposition of Anomalon Sp.

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Of course, the above is offered simply as a sample of a method of teaching systematic zoology. If the professor is an entomologist, let him make insects the subject of the term's work; if a conchologist, mollusks will yield the best results. If he has never become especially interested in any group of animals he should seriously consider the question as to whether or not he has missed his vocation.

OVIPOSITION OF ANOMALON SP.

BY C. P. GILLETTE.

While passing an apple tree August 18, on which were a brood of *Datana ministra* larvæ about one-third grown, my attention was attracted by the presence of a large Hymenopterous parasite busily ovipositing in their soft bodies and apparently much to their discomfort. The parasite was a large black *Anomalon* sp. not in my collection, unless, possibly, it is a variety of *A. pallitarse* Cress. It differs from Cresson's description by having its middle and hind pairs of legs entirely black and its face and antennæ entirely yellow.

This parasite was so intent upon her work that she did not leave when I pulled the limb down close to my face so that I could distinctly watch operations. The entire brood of larvæ were apparently alarmed and were striking their heads violently from side to side to frighten away their enemy. The parasite stood upon a leaf in easy reach of a number of her victims, watching their movements and as soon as one became quiet enough she would quickly thrust it with her sharp ovipositor. The manner in which this was done was what especially interested me. I had supposed that these parasites would stand upon or above their victims and thrust down upon them, but such was not her manner. I was reminded of one who fences and with a quick thrust straight in front pierces his combatant. This insect stood upon her two back pairs of legs the front pair not being put to any use. The long abdomen was bent under the thorax and between the legs and the thrusts were made straight in front of the face. As the abdomen was brought forward the short ovipositor pointed straight in front like an index finger.

The larvæ when pierced did not drop to the ground but threw their heads higher in the air and ejected a dark colored liquid. So far as I saw, but one egg was deposited in each larva.