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A NEW SCELIONID EGG PARASITE OF THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER.

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It is very interesting to describe a reared species of *Bæus*, from the egg mass of a specifically identified spider, and especially as its host is the generally feared, very poisonous *Latrodectus mactans*. The egg masses were placed in glass tubes for observation. Young spiders hatching at the same time did not seem to take any notice of the wingless females and these remained alive in the tube as long as eight days. Numbers of winged males, however, were found dead in four days time but were apparently not eaten by the spiders.

Bæus latrodecti, new species.

This species is nearest in coloration to *Bæus americanus* Howard but differs in the general more yellowish-orange color, particularly the head, and is slightly longer in body length.

Male.—Length, .86 mm. General color distinctly darker than the female, dark honey-orange with the dorsum of thorax and abdomen infuscated; legs honey-yellow. Antennae pale yellow, composed of eleven joints, the scape very long, much thicker and wider than the other joints, the club constricted near middle, making the club appear almost as being two-jointed. Wings hyaline, fringed, venation pale brown, marginal nervure very short, basal nervure distinct, the stigmal long and oblique, no post marginal nervure present.

Female.—Length .717 mm. Length of antennal club .115 mm.; width of club .046 mm. General color of head and body medium to dark honey-yellow, the abdomen a decidedly deeper or rusty color; eyes black; antennae honey-yellow, the basal half of pedicel fuscous; legs concolorous with the head, the last joint of tarsi blackish. Head large and broad, decidedly wider than the thorax. Pro- and mesonotum and abdomen with dark prominent setae when observed under microscope, less prominent on abdomen on account of the darker color of the latter. Antennae seven-jointed, the club very large, being slightly longer than the combined pedicel and funicle joints; funicle joints very narrow, short, transverse and subequal. Abdomen robust, rounded, distinctly wider than the thorax.

Allotype wingless female mounted in balsam on slide, U. S. National Museum Cat. No. 43327. Holotype winged male on slide with four other males and four females.

Described from two females reared October 30, 1930, and a large series of females and males reared Nov. 12-14, 1930, by the writer from egg sacs of the "cul rouge" or "black widow" spider, *Latrodectus mactans* Fab. collected from beneath bee hives at Damien, Haiti.

Ashmead in the description of the winged male of *Bæus americanus* How. and characterization of the genus, states that the male antenna is 12-jointed but with the male of *B. latrodecti* there are only eleven joints, the last being constricted somewhat to suggest a twelfth joint.

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