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THE FEMALE OF *ECTATOMMA TUBERCULATUM* (OLIV.) VAR.
PUNCTIGERUM EMERY (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE).

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In May and June, 1930, the author collected several forms of the above variety in Trinidad.

As there is no description of the female it seems desirable to give the characters which distinguish it from the typical queen described by Latreille (1).

Ectatomma tuberculatum, ♀.

Length 18 mm.; length of wing 11 mm. Colour dull reddish-bay, eyes brown.

Circular areas between frontal carinae present.

Sculpture on first gastric segment of fine striae running transversely, posteriorly in mid-line running concentrically.

Sculpture on second gastric segment of striae running transversely in anterior portion. Pilosity somewhat scarce. Striae fine.

E. tuberculatum var. *punctigerum*, ♀.

Length 12 mm., length of wing 8.5 mm.

Dark brown, eyes black.

Circular areas absent.

Sculpture of coarser striae interrupted by setiferous punctures, posteriorly striae running parallel to main axis in mid-line, obliquely on either side.

Striae in anterior portion running mainly at right-angles to joints of abdomen, distribution plumose. Pilosity more marked. Striae coarser.

The worker is 10 mm. long with a much smaller gaster than the female. Wheeler (2) says of the female that in some specimens the striation on the first gastric segment is even feebler than in the worker, so that the surface is smoother and more shining. In all the Trinidad females collected by the author the striation is well marked on this segment.

The neallotype ♀, as well as all other forms and stages but the egg, have been presented to the National Collection.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr. H. St. John Donisthorpe for his kindness and help. Also to Mr. K. G. Blair for similar courtesies.

- (1) LATREILLE, P. A.—'Histoire Naturelle des Fourmis.' Paris, 1802.
 (2) WHEELER, W. M.—'Psyche.' Vol. XXXVII, 1. March, 1930.
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 SMITH, S.—Cat. of Hymenoptera in the British Museum. Part VI. London, 1858.
- 12 Oppidans Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.
 July, 1930.

A mortal combat between a spider and a wasp.—The following incident, involving the almost simultaneous deaths of both antagonists, was witnessed on July 31st by Mr. A. Merry, a Charlbury gardener, who related it to me very soon afterwards. A dense web is slung hammock-wise across the window, about eighteen inches wide, of a stone outbuilding used as a tool-house, and in this web lay a ♀ example of the spider *Tegenaria atrica* C. L. Koch. A worker wasp (*Vespa vulgaris*) had flown into the rather dark outbuilding through the door and, making for the light of the window, it got caught in the web, where its buzzing attracted Merry, who watched carefully what took place. The spider immediately rushed on the wasp and began trying to enmesh it completely, moving its legs over and over the wasp's body. In the ensuing struggle the wasp turned on its back, and as it did so the spider nipped it in the membrane of the ventral side of the neck. Almost at the same moment, however, the wasp curved its gaster upwards and stung the spider in the ventral side of the abdomen, just behind the pedicel. For the briefest moment after being stung the spider continued its attempts to enmesh the wasp. It then withdrew, contracted its body and appendages and lay motionless for, perhaps, twenty or thirty seconds. After this it was seized with violent activity, rushing hither and thither about the web, and rolling convulsively over and over, till finally it collapsed on its back and never moved again. The wasp, meanwhile, had righted itself and climbed some little way up the web away from the spider, but soon it also collapsed and ceased to move at all. This point was apparently reached in its case even sooner than in that of the spider, but both spider and wasp became finally motionless within a minute from the time of receiving their fatal wounds. The observer then removed both from the web and laid them in an open box, and thus they were given to me an hour or two afterwards, both dead.

Mr. C. Warburton, who kindly named the spider, tells me that *Tegenaria atrica* is a species often found in houses, but more frequently outside. He adds that many British spiders have quite enough venom to kill an insect as strong as a wasp, unless killed themselves first. The spider, of course, wounds its victim with its chelicerae, the pair of two-segmented appendages on either side of the mouth; the distal segment of the chelicera opens and closes on the basal segment like the blade of a penknife, and bears near its apex the orifice of the duct of the poison-gland.—HUGH SCOTT, Charlbury, Oxfordshire: August 8th, 1930.

Apion minimum Hbst., an addition to the Rochester List of Coleoptera.—The list of the Coleoptera of the Rochester district published in the 'Rochester Naturalist' by Commander Walker (1897—99) contained the names of fifty-two species of the genus *Apion*, a very remarkable number for one district. It is therefore pardonable to record, somewhat belatedly, the addition of one other species, *minimum* Hbst., taken by beating *Salix* at Snodland on April 27th,