

which did not then exist — and to learn best how to control them. The Caterpillar and the Boll-worm, the two worst of these enemies, will soon cease to be a cause of anxiety to intelligent and enterprising planters. How best to overcome in this connection the negligence and indisposition of the more careless and ignorant of the cultivators, of whom there are so many among the freedmen, is a question which I may consider at some future time.

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THE HITHERTO UNKNOWN LIFE-HABITS OF TWO GENERA OF BEE-FLIES (*Bombyliidæ*) By C. V. RILEY, of Washington, D. C.

[ABSTRACT.]

THE paper gives the life-history of *Systæchus oreas* O. S. and of *Triodites mus* O. S. and shows that their larvæ have the same habit of preying on locust eggs. It calls attention to the parallelism in the life-history of the Bee-flies and of the Blister-beetles. The Bombyliidæ (accepting the more recent expansion of the family), so far as their habits have been hitherto recorded, were known to prey parasitically in the larva state upon the larva either of burrowing bees (genera *Anthophora*, *Andrena*, *Halictus*, *Colletes*, etc.), of mud-daubing wasps (*Trypoxylon*, etc.), or on the pupæ of certain Lepidoptera (e. g., *Limacodes*). Yet certain genera develop in the egg-masses of the Acrididæ, feeding upon the eggs. So the habit of the Meloïdæ, so far as known up to the year 1877, was to live parasitically in the cells of either burrowing bees or mason bees, though certain genera, e. g.: *Epicauta* and *Macrobasia*, were then shown to prey on locust eggs. (See Proc. of the Association for 1878, B., p. 18.) The abundance of both the Bombyliidæ and Meloïdæ in the western country is referred to as directly connected with the prevalence of locusts there, and the facts of retarded development in the early stages of both families are recorded and explained as a characteristic beneficial to the species which must depend on such uncertain food as the eggs of insects like the migratory locusts, which in some years prevail in great abundance and in others become scarce or are not found at all, in given localities.