

was dragging her along by the antennæ and trying to rise with her into the air.

The queen ants attract the attention of the wasps only during the few hours that intervene between the nuptial flight and the loss of their wings. On several occasions I saw dealated queens crossing the roads near the wasp colonies or even running near their nest entrances without being noticed by the wasps that were flying about. And on one occasion when I confined a dealated *subsericea* queen in a bottle with an *Aphilanthops*, the ant was still uninjured more than 24 hours later. It is probable, therefore, that the wasp responds only to the visual stimulus of the winged queen, which is, of course, very different from that of the same insect with her wings removed.

The ants are merely stung and paralyzed. The wasp does not mutilate or malaxate her victims, which still move their palpi, legs and antennæ either spontaneously or when touched, for several hours or even for a few days after they have been captured and placed in the nest. In the course of a few days and often sooner, however, all signs of movement have ceased, although the insects still have a fresh appearance, with flexible limbs and without any indications of the drying up of the tissues.

The wasp carries the ant under her body, supporting it by means of her middle and hind legs, while she holds its antennæ in her mandibles. Sometimes when she happens to settle for a moment on a slanting leaf-blade and is therefore obliged to stand on her legs, one may see the ant dangle for a moment from her jaws. On reaching the nest she may begin to enlarge the entrance by digging, still holding the ant by its antennæ and kicking the earth backward around it with her hind legs. Sometimes she may go directly into the nest without any preliminary digging and without dropping her prey. Occasionally, however, she may be seen to drop it just at the entrance, then go into the burrow, turn around and pull the ant in after her by one of its antennæ. This method of getting the ant into the nest is sometimes very awkwardly executed. Once I saw a wasp seize her ant by the petiole and with much effort pull it in doubled on itself. While the wasp is taking the ant into the burrow, she may be closely watched by two parasites, a beautiful metallic green *Chrysis*, or cuckoo-wasp, and a small gray Tachinid fly. I have not seen either of these insects oviposit.