

on the wasp's prey, nor have I found their larvæ in the nests. The wasp usually introduces her prey into the burrow so expeditiously and then buries it so completely that these parasites must encounter great difficulties in gaining access to it.

After the ant has been dragged a few inches down the burrow, the wasp proceeds to cut off its wings. Usually she does this very neatly, although the stubs she leaves attached to the body are a little longer than they are in queen ants that have deälated themselves. More rarely the wasp simply gnaws off the tips or apical halves of the wings. That this deälation is accomplished before the ant is carried to the lower portion of the nest is shown by the fact that while excavating the nest one always finds the detached wings only a few inches below the surface and some distance from the bodies of the stored ants.

Although I excavated a considerable number of nests with the aid of Messrs. W. M. Mann and F. X. Williams, I have had some difficulty in ascertaining the precise method employed by the *Aphilanthops* in rearing its young. By piecing together the observations made on different nests I have reached the conviction that the wasp secures several queen ants, usually five to seven, often belonging to more than one species, and stores them in two or three cells. Sometimes only a single ant is deposited in a cell, more frequently two, rarely three. No eggs were to be found on such stored individuals, but in each of two nests, a young larva was found in a small cell devouring a single ant, which had been cut in two at the petiole. The mother *Aphilanthops* was sitting in the burrow in each of these nests and in one of them there was a paralyzed ant in a chamber separated from the one in which the larva was feeding. Several older nests were excavated in which there was a single adult larva spinning its cocoon and surrounded by fragments of three or four queen ants. These conditions seem to me to prove that the *Aphilanthops* feeds her single larva from a store of several ants deposited in several cells. The egg is evidently laid on an isolated ant which the mother wasp cuts in two in order that the larva may gain access to the nutritious contents of the thorax and gaster. Then the other ants are taken from storage and brought to the larva one by one as they are required, till all are consumed and the larva is ready to pupate. As the wasps were found in the nests even after the larvæ had pupated and