

**NOTE ON HABITS OF SENOTAINIA RUBRIVENTRIS MACQ.\***

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This species of tachinid has been observed on several different occasions at Cedar Point, and its habits are of such interest that the record of some of these observations may be in place. In the vicinity of the laboratory certain pompilid wasps are quite common and may very frequently be seen dragging spiders with which to provision their nests. On several occasions during the summers of 1905 and 1906, I have observed these tachinid flies following the wasp as it drags its burden along the sand. The flies may vary in number from two to as many as nine, the highest number noticed, and in following the wasps hover at a very constant distance, about six or seven inches, progressing and halting almost mechanically with the movement of the spider. If the spider is dropped, the flies remain stationary, hovering an inch or two above the surface of the sand or, if the spider is left for some minutes, they may rest upon the sand, but always with the head directed toward the spider, and apparently with the attention concentrated fixedly upon it. So intent are they upon this object that they may be pushed about with a stick or otherwise interfered with, with scarcely any diversion from their intentness. Immediately upon the return of the wasp and movement of the spider, they are on the wing and maintaining the constant distance noted. The wasp appears to pay but little attention to them, although if approached too closely, it may show some slight indication of annoyance and the flies appear to be on the alert for any offensive action on the part of the wasp.

On one occasion I had the opportunity to see the actual entrance of the flies into the burrow. The flies hovered at about the usual distance from the spider while it was resting at the mouth of the burrow, but appeared unusually excited, making quick movements sidewise in maintaining attention upon the spider and when finally the spider was dragged into the burrow a very quick movement was made and some of the flies were seen to actually pass down in the burrow but apparently only one or two succeeded in entering and remaining; perhaps the one first getting opportunity to enter being recognized as the rightful inhabitant. Clearly the entrance of the burrow was for the purpose of depositing eggs and we cannot doubt that the species is parasitic within the nest of this pompilid. A related species, *Senotainia trilineata*, is recorded as being reared from the nest of *Sphex speciosa*. The species was kindly determined for me by Prof. J. S. Hine.

\* Read at the meeting of the Ohio State Acad. of Science.