sents itself but I do agree with the advertising slogan of our railroads that we should "See America First."

ARTHUR C. HARDY

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

MUSEUM PESTS FEEDING ON GLYCERINE JELLY SLIDES

RECENTLY I accidently found, in an ordinary box of 100 microscopic slides, two Dermestid beetle larvæ, exhibiting what is an apparently new feeding habit for these museum pests, as far as I can ascertain from entomologists here.

The two larvæ I saw at different times actually feeding on the black rim of asphaltum encircling the cover glass of a few slides, two in one part and five in another part of the box. From these was removed from one fourth inch to fully one half of the periphery, exposing the mounting medium at the edge. Excess asphaltum on the upper surface was not touched, which shows, as well as do other points given below, that the asphaltum was not the chief attractive food substance in the case.

Glycerine jelly was the mounting medium in all these slides. All slides touched were fairly thick mounts, all practically thick enough for at least a small larva to get in beneath the cover glass. Two slides show rather large, broad, irregular tunnels in the jelly. I did not actually see larvæ at work in the jelly, but sufficient evidence was there. Besides these spaces in the jelly, which could not have been due to any flow of material, or made by any other agent, a great many larval hairs were stuck around the cover glass, and in decreasing numbers, on other parts of the slide, and a cast skin was stuck to one.

One of these larvæ was inadvertently crushed, and the other one later died. A couple of big Dermestid larvæ were secured and offered fresh glycerine jelly. They ate of it readily, but I also noticed that they became badly stuck up in a rather short time, and soon died. Such result would be rather fortunate for the slide owner, thanks to the consistency of the glycerine jelly. If there are few larvæ there probably will not be much damage then. Still some good specimens may be exposed to injury, and this happen long before the injury is noted. It is a feeding habit which the writer believes should be taken into account.

W. C. KRAATZ

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NECTARINA IN TEXAS

MY attention was first called to the presence of *Nectarina lecheguana* within the limits of the United States by a letter from a beekeeper living in the lower Rio Grande Valley, stating that there were insects there which made nests like the hornets and yellow jackets but stored honey like bees. He also stated that they swarmed like bees. An investigation of available literature failed to mention anything fitting the description given. A few months later, on visiting the region, several beekeepers confirmed the account and I was shown a number of abandoned nests but could find none which were occupied. My interest continued and I endeavored to secure specimens from friends living there. A few live insects were sent me in an ordinary queen cage. These were forwarded to the National Museum for identification and were identified by S. A. Rohwer as *N. lecheguana*. This species is recorded commonly from Mexico to Brazil, but so far as can be ascertained there is no previous record of its appearance north of the Rio Grande River. I have been unable to find any indication of its occurrence farther north than about twenty miles of Brownsville, Texas.

In the early summer of 1920 I secured a large colony which was shipped in its original nest to Hamilton, Illinois, in a cage by express. A few days after the nest was placed in the open, the insects absconded and were not located again for some time. They built a new nest as large as the old and at least one division established itself, but the third nest was much smaller. Since the insects can stand but little frost they could not survive an Illinois winter in the open.

These insects are remarkable in possessing so many characteristics of both bees and wasps. As already stated they make large paper nests like the wasps but they store up honey like the bees. When they sting, they lose their stings as do the honeybees. They show little resentment when one approaches the nest and I found no difficulty in observing their actions at close range. When a forager returned from