

therein, and these cells were sub-divided as I had witnessed in the first instance.

There is no possibility of mistaking the ova, that of *Larrada Australis*, being only about half the size of that of *Pelopæus lætus*. The *Larrada* does not go to the river for the material used in subdividing the cell, but takes it from any convenient part of the nest it has attacked, moistening it with a secretion of its own, it also, when at work, emits the same sound as *Pelopæus lætus*, but so faintly as to be only distinguished at very close quarters.

I could not discover what was done with the ovum of *Pelopæus* but I believe it is devoured by the *Larrada* before it deposits its own. If it were thrown out of the cell I should have seen it done I think, and it was certainly not in any of the cells I then examined, so that the only way it could be disposed of is as I have suggested. If it is eaten by *Larrada Australis*, what purpose does this serve, it is surely not the natural food of this insect?

The locality from which these specimens came, and where my observations were made, is situated in about  $31^{\circ} 30'$  south latitude, and longitude about  $143^{\circ} 30'$  east, and about six miles from the town of Wilcannia on the Darling River.

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#### ON THE VORACITY OF A SPECIES OF HETEROSTOMA.

BY H. RAWES WHITTELL, ESQ.

On the 18th September, 1879, while insect hunting, I turned over a dead log, and beheld to my surprise a lizard (*Diplodactylus*), held fast by a centipede of the genus *Heterostoma*, which was eating it alive. Neither seemed in any way disturbed by my intrusion. I sat down to watch results, and occasionally stirred up the *Diplodactylus* with a stick, which caused it to make feeble and futile efforts to release itself.



The centipede had secure hold by numbers of its hinder legs to a firm twig ; some of the middle ones held the tail of the *Diplodactylus*, which was severed from the body, leaving but a short stump, and the remainder held its victim securely by the right hind leg and stump of the tail. I next got on all-fours to watch the centipede feeding ; at first I thought it was but sucking the blood, but saw shortly that it was eating the flesh also, and by squeezing the wound with its mandibles, causing a copious flow of blood at moderate intervals ; always eating the flesh between these intervals. After watching them for about a quarter of an hour, I killed the centipede and examined the *Diplodactylus* ; I found, just immediately before and slightly beneath the right hind leg, a shallow circular space a little more than the eighth of an inch in diameter, and about one-sixteenth of an inch in depth, eaten clean away.

The *Diplodactylus* when in the grasp of the centipede seemed stupified, but soon recovered itself after I had liberated it. It was fully four inches in length, and about half an inch in breadth across the body. The *Heterostoma* was about three and a half inches in length, and in breadth of a proportion common to its family.

I may state that I made notes of all my observations at the times they were made, and it is from these notes that my remarks this evening are compiled.

The locality where this observation was made is the same as that given in my preceding paper.

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#### NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Mr. MACLEAY exhibited a curious horny growth taken from the ear of a sheep at Natal Downs, Queensland. The growth, which seems to have arisen from ear-marking five months previously, was of a long conical shape, resembling horn both in form and texture.



Whittell, H. Rawes. 1883. "On the voracity of a species of *Heterostoma*."  
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