A Prothetelous Larva of Monocrepidius Exsul
(Elateride, Coleoptera).

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The accompanying figure shows, enlarged four diameters, a larva of our most abundant elaterid beetle—a migrant many years ago from the Australian region—that has the wing-buds developed before the proper time, resulting thus in a larva with some pupal characters. This example was discovered May 12, 1922, by Mr. O. H. Swezey, among several larvae secured most probably from the island of Hawaii. It lived many weeks as a captive in a small metal box filled with soil, moulted twice as a prothetelous larva, and finally once more into a pupa which had shrivelled up and died before it was observed. During a part of its life this abnormal individual was heavily infested with mites (acari) of which, however, it freed itself in a great measure in one of its ecdyses.

I append a small bibliography—undoubtedly incomplete—that refers to the subject of prothetely. The article by Hyslop (1916) is here of particular interest, since it treats of a prothetelous elaterid which shows the abnormal phenomenon of prothetely far more developed than in the Monocrepidius exsul.

Prothetely seems to be most common in coleopterous larvae.


1904. Silvestri, F. Redia, II, pp. 68-84 ("praenympha" of Lebia scapularis).


1912. Tragardth, I. Fauna och Flora, pp. 245-255.


1914. Williams, F. X. Psyche, XXI, No. 4, pp. 126-129 (larva of Photuris pennsylvanica).

1916. Hyslop, J. A. Psyche, XXIII, No. 6, pp. 3-6 (larva of Melanotus communis).