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DEAD *POLLENIA RUDIS* (FABR.) AS HOSTS OF DERMESTIDS.

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Early this spring (1928) several complaints were received by the Department of Biology of the University of Toronto, of infestations of dwelling houses by Dermestids. The most pronounced case was in a new house in the newer section of North Toronto where beetles had been appearing in such numbers that their presence and continued reoccurrence was driving the tenants to hysterics and to the point of moving out of the house. Specimens brought in proved to be *Anthrenus scrophulariae* Linn. larvae and adults.

The tenants stated that they had searched every nook and cranny of the house for possible breeding places and had cleaned out every closet and cupboard, but the beetles still persisted. Dr. Norma Ford suggested that they might be breeding in dead bodies of the Cluster fly *Pollenia rudis* (Fabr.) which was reported to occur in the unused attic.

Upon inspecting the house, I found it scrupulously clean from ceiling to basement but beetles of two species *Anthrenus museorum* L. and *A. scrophulariae* L. in the proportion of two to one respectively, were present in some numbers especially around the windows on the south side of the house and crawling up from cracks behind mould-boards behind radiators. The only visible damage was a series of holes eaten in the topmost folds of a heavy silk plush curtain from which the owner had removed the larvae she had brought in for identification. The attic was partly unfinished and was reached only by a trap door in the hall ceiling. The floor boards of the attic were literally carpeted with dead bodies of *Pollenia rudis* (Fabr.) while live flies crawled in dense masses along the window sills. I crushed and examined a square yard of dead flies and found a heavy infestation of *A. museorum* L. occurring as larvae in all stages of development, pupae, and adults about to emerge, but not a trace of *A. scrophulariae* L. There were no adult beetles crawling around the windows amongst the flies so that upon emergence, they must all have crawled down to the warmer parts of the house.

The breeding place of *A. scrophulariae*, L. was not discovered.

Pollenia rudis (Fabr.) has been unusually abundant in Toronto this spring and many enquiries about it have been sent in to the Department of Biology. From the findings in this instance, it might in future be advisable to spray any masses of this fly that occur in attics and to sweep up and burn their bodies lest they furnish breeding places for harmful Dermestids.