

- THEILER, G. 1943 Notes on the ticks off domestic stock from Portuguese East Africa. *Estação Anti-Malária*, Lourenço Marques, 55 pp.
 ——— 1955 Personal communication.
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1956, *J. Parasitol.* 42: 172.

RESEARCH NOTES

A CARPET BEETLE LARVA (COLEOPTERA : DERMESTIDAE) FROM THE DIGESTIVE TRACT OF A WOMAN

On July 21, 1955 a woman forty-three years old in London, Ontario experienced a sensation of peri-anal itching, and suspecting the presence of pin-worms, examined a stool following a bowel movement. In it was found a small, dead "worm". When examined by the writer this proved to be a larva, 7 mm. long, of a beetle of the genus *Attagenus* as identified with keys in B. E. Rees (1943. Classification of the Dermestidae (larder, hide, and carpet beetles) based on larval characters, with a key to the North American genera. U.S. Dept. Agric., Miscell. Publ. No. 511). It closely resembled the larva of *Attagenus piceus* figured by A. Gibson and C. R. Twinn (1939. Household insects and their control. Dept. Agric., Canada, Publ. No. 642). *A. piceus* is a beetle of cosmopolitan distribution and its larva feeds on furs, skins, woolen fabrics, stored grains and cereals (Busvine, J. R. 1951. Insects and Hygiene. Methuen and Co., London).

R. Matheson (1950. Medical Entomology. Comstock Publ. Co., Ithaca) points out that cases of canthariasis, the infection of tissues by beetle larvae, relate to larvae of the Dermestidae and Tenebrionidae and that infection probably occurs through eating of food containing eggs or larvae. H. Liggett (1931. *J. Amer. Med. Assn.* 96: 1571-1572) reports a case of larvae of *A. piceus* infecting the nose of a girl. In the case of the woman at London, as reported by the present writer, the larva was probably ingested with food.

Clinical data in this case were contributed by C. A. Cline, M.D., who was the physician investigating the case and the larva was submitted to the writer, for identification, by W. M. Wilson, M.D., of the Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, London.—W. W. Judd, Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.