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Some Further Notes on Nocturnal Hymenoptera

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[Reprinted from "The Annals of Scottish Natural History," April 1910.]

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SOME FURTHER NOTES ON NOCTURNAL
HYMENOPTERA.

By P. CAMERON.

Wespoidea
Hymenoptera *A. Vespidæ* - *Vespinæ*

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"The Scottish Naturalist"

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SOME FURTHER NOTES ON NOCTURNAL HYMENOPTERA.

By P. CAMERON.

IN the October Number of the "Annals of Scottish Natural History" I gave some instances of nocturnal Hymenoptera, an essentially sun- and light-loving order of Insects. A few further examples of this habit may not be without interest, especially as they appear to follow the rule I gave, namely, that the night-haunting species were uniformly fulvous or brownish in colour, and that their compound eyes and ocelli were larger and more prominent than they are with diurnal species. In "Nature," 1886, p. 392, the Marquis G. Doria relates that the Italian traveller and natural history collector, Mr. Leonardo Fea, found in Burma an uniformly fulvous coloured *Bombus* collecting pollen or honey at night, during bright moonlight. This, however, is a habit found with *Bombi* in this country, especially during warm, bright summer nights. It may be that the species observed by Mr. Fea was not a *Bombus*, but *Xylocopa rufescens*, Sm., which is found in Burma and which is, I have reason to believe, more or less crepuscular in its mode of life. I have found recorded two examples of nocturnal habits among the *Vespidæ*, or social wasps. *Vespa doryloides*, Sauss., is a very different form from the normal species of the genus

Vespa; and, as its name implies, it has a great resemblance to the winged forms of the ant genus *Dorylus*. In the "Journal of the Linnean Society," 1859, p. 297, Dr. A. R. Wallace describes it as "a curious species of weak structure and nocturnal habits, since I only took it when attracted to the lamp at night." According to Du Buysson this species lives in old, thickly planted forests, and appears to be greatly inconvenienced by sunlight, and is only active at night.¹ From its form and colouration *Vespa barthelemyi*, Duy., has probably identical habits. The South American social wasp, *Apoica*, flies during the night collecting honey, and resting in its nest during the day, as observed by Fritz Müller and Mr. Adolf Ducke. In its body form it is more elongated than usual and has very prominent ocelli. A comparison of *Apoica virginea*, F., *Vespa dorylloides*, and the ant *Dorylus* shows great resemblance in body form, pilosity, and colouration, showing, as I believe, that their general resemblance has been produced by the habit, common to them all, of being active at night, and not, like their congeners, during the day. Among the *Mutillidæ* the genus *Photopsis* is certainly crepuscular. This genus is well represented in the south and south-west of the United States and in Mexico, the males flying about at night. All the species are very hairy, brownish in colour and have prominent ocelli.

¹ "Ann. de la Soc. Ent. de France," 1904, p. 617.

