

four; under one as many as twenty. But few were running about, and these either round the deposits or from one to another. As usual they never once attempted to fly, though they have ample wings, and the day was sufficiently warm: they ran, but not very fast, and were easily taken. Under the piece of cow-dung where the largest number were found only two or three were at first seen, but others had gone below the surface of the ground, and on watching a slight kicking or disturbance of the earth took place, and the beetle was easily captured. The males and females, slightly differing in size, the latter being the largest, were much together, and I conclude it was late in their season, and that the eggs were being deposited beneath the surface under the cow-dung. There were not any larvæ about, though I had seen them at this time of year on a previous occasion. The beetles smelt strongly of the substance under which they burrowed, and I think they fed on it.

“Our large five-horned *Copris* has of late years spread in the Gawler districts from the same cause, *viz.* the numerous deposits from the cattle. Through this, while in a moist state, they pierce during the dark hours, going often a foot down, making large holes, and throwing up the earth behind them; and I have dug out from under one piece from twenty to thirty specimens, male and female. They first appear in June, when rain has fallen, up to September when leaving off.”

Prof. Westwood observed that, in the note referred to, in the ‘Modern Classification,’ he undoubtedly was speaking of *Formicidæ*, and not of *Termitidæ*. Mr. Wilson did not seem to be aware that *Paussidæ* had been repeatedly found in ants’ nests, and that several species had been sent from the Cape of Good Hope by Guenzius with the nests of the particular species of *Formicidæ* which they frequented.

Mr. A. R. Wallace remarked upon the rapidity with which the insects mentioned by Mr. Wilson had adapted their mode of life to the altered circumstances in which they found themselves placed; thirty years ago there was not a cow in South Australia, and yet members of three families of *Coleoptera*, so widely separated as the *Paussidæ*, *Carabidæ* and *Copridæ*, had already become habitual frequenters of cow-dung; and this was the more remarkable in the *Calosoma*, whose British congener was arboreal in its habits.

Mr. Gould exhibited *Hylurgus piniperda*, which was doing considerable mischief to *Pinus insignis* in several parks and plantations in Cornwall.

Mr. Pascoe called attention to an article on *Atropos pulsatoria* in Hardwicke’s ‘Science Gossip,’ of the 1st of February, 1867, in which Mr. W. Chaney wrote as follows:—

“My first acquaintance with *Atropos*, or as it is generally called here the wood-louse, commenced about thirteen or fourteen years ago: at that time I lived in an old house in Brompton, near Chatham, and in my bed-room, which was also my library and museum, I had a very *olla podrida* of Natural History hanging about the walls; among the rest was a honey-comb. It was soon after the introduction of this to my list of curiosities that the strange ticking sound (which at the time sorely puzzled me) commenced, and that led me eventually to the investigation of the cause. I soon found that the noise proceeded from the comb, and on closer examination I saw a number of wood-lice travelling about from one cell to another, and appearing very busy in their explorations. After awhile the ticking commenced, which I quickly traced to a particular cell, and by the aid of a common convex lens I could perceive *Atropos*