

A monstrosity of *Cybister lateralimarginalis* de Geer (Col. Dytiscidae)

by

J. H. DE GUNST

In August 1949 I got a full-grown larva of a large waterbeetle, collected on the border of a small lake near Rotterdam (Hillegersberg) by Mr. J. SCHOL.

It had left the water and while trying to find a place to pupate was attacked by ants (*Myrmica? laevinodes* Nyl.). The larva was put in an aquarium in which the natural situation of the edge of a ditch had been imitated as well as possible and after some time it crept into a cavity prepared in the earth.

A few days later it had changed into the pupal stage. The pupal cell was not completely closed and I noticed that the pupa was still in possession of the larval head. The aquarium was kept in the dark and after a fortnight the beetle emerged. Through some unknown cause it had been unable to shed the pupal skin completely with the result that the left side was disfigured, especially elytron and hindleg.

The beetle, however, had a larval head instead of a normal one (see photo). It was *Cybister lateralimarginalis* de Geer ♀.

After some time it made its way towards the water and immediately started swimming; however, more or less in circles on account of the disfiguration, and it could neither dive, nor stay under water.

Now it happened that in the summer of 1938 I noticed something, swimming in a canal at Rotterdam (Hillegersberg) that looked like a very little tortoise; but after capturing same it turned out to be a waterbeetle which instead of having a normal head, possessed the head of a larva. This specimen was also *Cybister lateralimarginalis* de Geer. But for its head, it was perfectly normal. After being transferred to an aquarium, it swam and dived just as if nothing was wrong for a long period.

Of course feeding was impossible for the mandibles of the larval head were immovable.

According to EVERTS, 1898, *Coleoptera Neerlandica* 1: 144, this species may be found in ponds and lakes all over the country, but rarely.

Some analogous cases in Lepidoptera have been described in the following numbers of the *Int. ent. Z. Guben*, 3 1909/10.



No. 27: VON WUESTHOFF — gives an account of a female *Arctia caja* L. (Arctiidae) with a caterpillar-head.

No. 29: a. STICHEL — gives a review of the literature on butterflies with caterpillar-heads.

b. SCHNEPF — describes a number of pupae from a culture of *Limnitis camilla* L. (*sibylla* L.) (Nymphalidae) that showed caterpillar-heads. Contrary to all expectations little butterflies emerged which were normal except for their heads.

Instead of a butterfly-head they had a shrivelled caterpillar-head and not as expected the skin of a caterpillar-head covering a normally developed butterfly-head. These butterflies always flew straight towards the window, so it was certain they could perceive light.

The other butterflies of this culture were also rather backward in comparison with normal ones.

No. 41: GROSZE — communicates on p. 220 a case of an ill nourished and during pupation disturbed caterpillar of *Deilephila euphorbiae* L. (Sphingidae), which developed into a pupa with a caterpillar-head bending a little forward. The wingsheaths were small and considerably shortened. The pupa was also somewhat shrunk. It was very sensitive and reacted upon touching with lively movements of the abdomen.

No. 47: RICHTER — describes on pp. 255—256 a case of a specimen of *Dendrolimus pini* L. (Lasiocampidae) with a complete caterpillar-head instead of the butterfly-head.

(According to abstracts in the "Zentralblatt für allgemeine und experimentelle Biologie" Vol. 1, No. 9/10 (1910) pp. 345—346; abstr. No's 685 and 687).

Bogor (Java), Inst. for Plant Diseases and Pests, May, 1951.

Literatuur

Benno, P., *Bijen, Wespen en Mieren (Hymenoptera aculeata)*, Naamlijst der Nederlandse soorten. No. 3 van de Wetenschappelijke Mededelingen van de werkgroepen der Kon. Ned. Natuurhist. Ver., Nov. 1951. 36 pag., prijs f 1,50, te bestellen bij A. C. HAZEVOET, Vogelenzangstraat 191, Amsterdam-W. (girekening 13028 ten name van Administrateur van de K.N.N.V.-uitgaven, Amsterdam).

Wij mogen ons de laatste tijd verheugen in een nog steeds groeiende belangstelling voor de entomologie. Dat een vereniging van zo veelzijdige aard als de K.N.N.V. een uitgave als de hierboven genoemde aandurft, is er mede een bewijs voor. De lijst bevat uitsluitend de namen der soorten, waarbij echter nog heel wat vraagtekens voorkomen, een aanduiding, dat het voorkomen in Nederland nog twijfelachtig is. De nomenclatuur is in overeenstemming met de internationale regels gebracht.

Als basis voor verder onderzoek hebben dergelijke lijsten ongetwijfeld hun waarde. En zeker voor zo'n bekende groep Hymenoptera werd het hoog tijd, dat er eens een moderne samenvatting verscheen van wat uit ons land bekend is, zodat niet elke belangstellende telkens weer moet beginnen met alle literatuur na te snuffelen om te weten, welke soorten nu eigenlijk in ons land aangetroffen zijn.

Laten vooral vele leden der N.E.V. de lijst bestellen, zodat de uit-