

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

No. 2.

OVA-SACS OF ARACHNURA TRILOBATA, *Urq.*

By W. J. RAINBOW, Entomologist.

(Plate xvii.)

In the early part of May of this year, Mr. W. F. Howlett, of Eketahuna, New Zealand, presented to the Trustees of this Museum, a spray, measuring about 10 inches in length, containing a large series of cocoons or ova-sacs of a spider, *Arachnura trilobata*, *Urq.*, which species occurs also in Tasmania.

In his letter, dated May 2, 1916, Mr. Howlett says:—"A friend handed me enclosed, apparently the egg-cocoons of a social spider . . . He says the spiders have all gone away now . . . I opened one cocoon and found it full of well developed spiders . . . My friend says the spiders had a very large web 'right across the track.'" In a further letter, dated June 2, 1916, Mr. Howlett says:—"It is 'social,' and of course makes geometric webs."

The species is described by Urquhart¹ as being $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long in the ♀, and 5 mm. in the ♂. The ♀ has a glossy black cephalothorax and glossy green abdomen, the latter terminating in three blunt, transversely wrinkled protuberances. In the ♂ the cephalothorax is dull brownish-black, while the abdomen somewhat resembles the ♀ in colour and form, but is comparatively broader at the posterior end. Mr. Howlett, in his letter dated June 2, 1916, says:—"The spider is unmistakable. From memory I call it pure black, with three humps at end of abdomen. The young have a white patch on the back." In respect of the latter, I opened one of the cocoons and took therefrom upwards of fifty individuals, some of which were

¹ Urquhart—*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, xvii., 1884, p. 37, pl. ix., figs. 3, 3a-3f; *Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasm.*, 1892 (1893), p. 119.