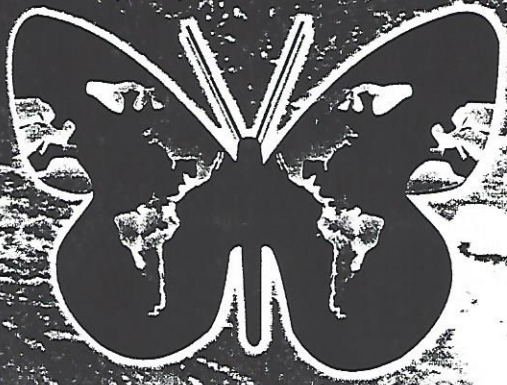


**Ministério
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**XXI
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ABSTRACTS

BOOK I

International Congress of Entomology is a joint promotion of:



Embrapa

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[2997] OBSERVATIONS ON SOME *COLEOPTERA DERMESTIDAE* SPECIES OF ZOOTECHNICAL INTEREST IN UMBRIA, CENTRAL ITALY

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The *Dermestidae* beetles are known mainly as insects infesting food stuffs and everything being of animal origin. A lot of species are found in the carcasses of animals after the process of desiccation has begun and the tissues are already well dry; other species instead, such as the *Anthrenus verbasci*, attack collections of stuffed animals preserved in museums and produce serious damages. The incidence that these beetles can have in some breedings of pigeons or pheasants was little known and was learnt through our careful observations of two different and even curious phenomena of merely parasitological interest, frequently occurring in Umbria in overpopulated breedings: the high mortality of young pigeons and the broken tails of pheasants. In both kinds of breedings, organic material such as broken eggs that soiled the young animals' abdomens still in the nest, or the tails of pheasants often soiled by faeces, or dead young animals not systematically and quickly removed from the breeding, while desiccating, during the night attracted the voracious larvae of *Dermestidae* beetles, identified as *Dermestes frischii* and *Dermestes maculatus*, that cut off both the dirty skin and the birds' feathers by their jaws. As for pigeons, a consequence was an increasing incidence of young animals dead for peritonitis or infection of the numerous skin wounds; as for pheasants, the breaking up of their wing and tail feathers, causing depreciation of the birds and even their unsaleability. We made the very useful observation that this occurred in all breedings without perches on which pheasants could rest at night, instead of being forced to sleep on the ground. It was sufficient to place those structures in the breeding and to take care of tidying and removing quickly the dead young animals to solve an important problem that caused great economic losses to breeders.

Index terms: high mortality, pigeons, broken tails, pheasants, beetles.