

**BRITISH SOCIAL WASPS, AN  
INTRODUCTION TO THEIR ANATOMY  
AND PHYSIOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE,  
AND GENERAL NATURAL HISTORY, WITH  
ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE DIFFERENT  
SPECIES AND THEIR NESTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649751495

British Social Wasps, an Introduction to Their Anatomy and Physiology, Architecture, and General Natural History, with Illustrations of the Different Species and Their Nests by Edward Latham Ormerod

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Cover @ 2017

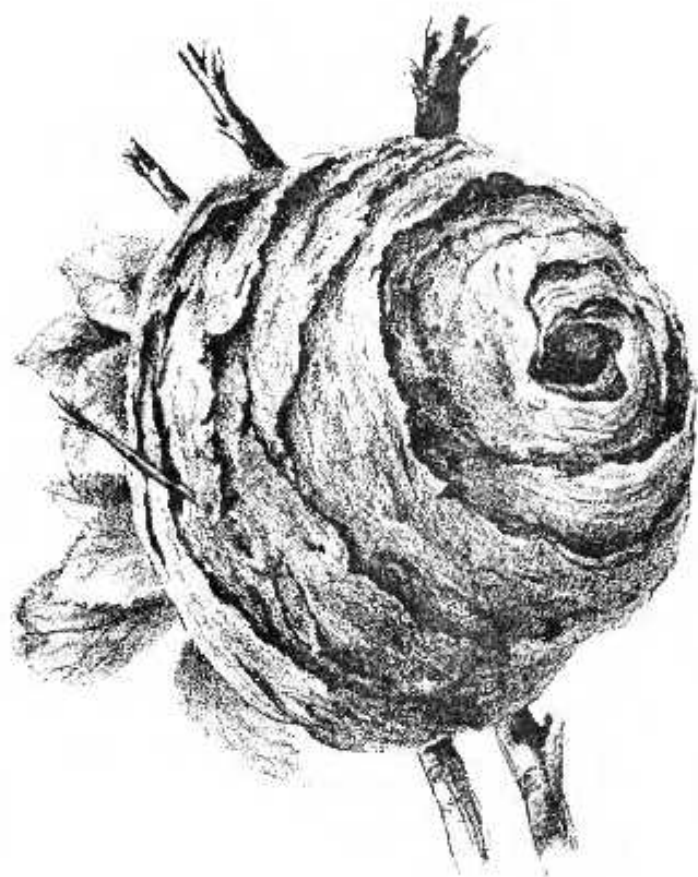
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THEIR NESTS.

BY

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LONDON:

LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER.  
1868.

## PREFACE.

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WASPS have been my holiday companions for many years; and wasps and wasps' nests have occupied much of the time which was forbidden to more serious employments. Beginning with an inquiry into the nature of wasp-paper, one question has led on to another, till the detached observations have insensibly grown into a continuous Natural History.

I feel that I may point with entire satisfaction to the figures of the several species, of the excellency and accuracy of which Mr. Robinson's name is a guarantee to all Entomologists. And of the beautiful drawings of the nests, by my wife's pencil, I am sure that there can be but one opinion, in accordance with my own. The wood-engravings and graphotypes want the perfect finish which can only be given by a practised hand, but I must plead that they convey my meaning more exactly than an artist working at a distance could have expressed.

If the mode in which these observations have been collected has impressed itself too strongly on the book; if it appear only too plainly that while professing to teach others I am but a learner myself; if the space devoted to the different topics seems to have been proportioned less to their actual importance than to the interest of the passing hour; and

if wasps, instead of being the subject, seem sometimes the occasion of the discussion; I can only say that on such terms alone could I have written these pages. Only as an amusement, as each topic came freshly suggested by Nature at a leisure time, could the labour have ever been undertaken, and the idea persistently carried out.

I apprehend, however, no hard criticism to tell me that this book, with all its faults, to which I am keenly alive, should never have been written at all. If I have added anything to our common stock of knowledge, I shall be held excused for having told my story in my own way. And further, if, in so doing, I shall have given as much pleasure to others as I have myself received from such like books, my present contribution to Natural History will have fully answered its purpose.

BRIGHTON,

*January, 1868.*



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