

Albin in his *Natural History of Spiders and Other Curious Insects* (1736) and depicted a central spider surrounded by four others. Above individual figures he noted the number and arrangement of eyes. In 1821 Charles Athanase Walckenaer acquired this collection and used it to identify and describe the Georgia spiders included in his *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes: Aptères* (1837-47).

In 1800 Abbot completed an additional 137 spider watercolours which became part of Francillon's personal collection. Here as he had in the earlier series, Abbot proposed his classification scheme and described the nest building habits of a wasp he termed 'mud dauber' and its use of paralysed spiders as food for its larvae. Abbot commented that upon opening a mud dauber's nest filled with spiders, he witnessed 'a most curious and pleasing sight, to see such a large quantity of Spiders at one view of the rarest kinds and of the most beautyfull colors'. He concluded with the observation that were it 'possible still to continue to preserve them in their beauty and freshness they would make a wonderfull addition to Natural History'.²⁵ Such observations naturally interested Adam White at the British Museum (Natural History), whose 1841 publication 'Descriptions of new or little known Arachnida' quoted Abbot on the subject.²⁶ Presumably at White's suggestion, Charles Darwin decided to include Abbot's observations on 'mud daubers' and spiders in his revised second edition of the *Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited during the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle Round the World* (1845).

In Georgia Abbot's studies brought him in contact with other naturalists. He met Aloysius Enslin, botanical collector for Prince Maurice-Joseph of Liechtenstein, and he knew Robert Squibb, who assisted Thomas Walter with his *Flora Caroliniana* (1788). While collecting plants in Georgia in June 1803, the horticulturist John Lyon stopped to visit Abbot. Augustus Oemler not only provided instruction in botany, but also loaned Abbot arthropod specimens from his own extensive natural history collection. Abbot, in turn, prepared a collection of watercolours illustrating the life cycles of insects with food plants for his friend. As librarian of the Savannah Library Society, Oemler arranged the purchase of an additional series of Abbot insect and plant watercolours. Another of Abbot's friends, the botanist William Baldwin, examined the group of drawings for the Library in December 1811 and found them 'exquisitely beautiful and scientifically accurate'.²⁷ Stephen Elliott, the author of *A Sketch of the Botany of South Carolina and Georgia* (1821-24), also received a group of insect and food plant watercolours from Abbot. Elliott provided Abbot with a number of insect specimens collected in Georgia and South Carolina, and Abbot reciprocated with plant specimens.