

from them. Feb. 18, 1891, three examples were sifted from leaves drifted against a fence, but not in company with mice. June, 27, under a decaying log in a lot of dry vegetable matter, possibly an abandoned mouse or bumble bees' nest, some 50 or 60 specimens were obtained. July 3rd, under circumstances similar to the last, about a dozen examples were found. August 10th, a single example was found on Chestnut Ridge (one of the Alleghanies) under a stone where no nest nor mouse far nor near could be found. The result of Mr. Schmitt's collecting shows that *Leptinus* may be taken at any season of the year. It also shows that it is not wholly dependent on mice or mice nests for its food, as of the five captures it only occurred once with a mouse. All previously recorded captures were made in the nests of this rodent, which has given rise to the expression: "*Parasitic in the nests of mice,*" etc. The statement that *Leptinus* is parasitic on the bodies of mice is unsupported, except in one erroneous instance, from which all assertions of this kind have probably arisen. The statement in *Insect Life* cited, that it has been found on mice by Dr. John A. Ryder, proves, on being traced up, to be somewhat erroneous, and it is found, curiously enough, to have been a mole—and dead—on which it occurred, perhaps much in the way a *Cercyon unipunctatum*, a *Silpha*, *Choleva*, etc., might have been there.

That *Leptinus* is not a parasite seems to have been the opinion of some distinguished European authors, among them, Mr. A. Fauvel, who published a paper on the subject in 1863, in *Annales. Ent. Soc., France*, of that year, in which he states that this insect is found under dead leaves, in leaves in hollow logs, under logs, stones and roots, and thinks, with Fairmaire (cited), that the opinion that they are parasitic on or with rodents is erroneous; advancing the conjecture that they feed on small fungi, like most *Choleva*, *Agathidium*, *Oxytoda*, *Tachyporus*, etc., the decaying leaves and mosses of the nests of rodents often furnishing supplies of this small vegetation accounting for their presence there. If Mr. Fauvel is correct in this surmise, it would be only in line for them to resort occasionally to a carcass for food, if in its vicinity, as is the well-known habit of many insects which live on decaying matter and low forms of life, thus accounting for their presence on a dead mole, as found by Dr. Ryder. Whatever may be the nature of its food, from the foregoing it is evident it can and does live independent of animals, and that the proper term to apply to it in its relation to rodents would, perhaps, be frequently inquilinous. In Europe the distribution of *Leptinus* is, Germany, France, Sweden, Caucasus; in America, that mentioned above.