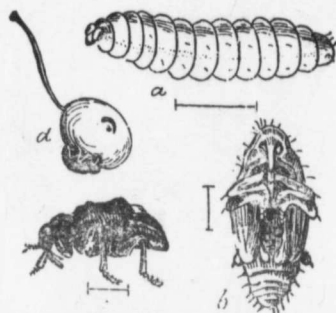


PLUM CURCULIO.

(Conotrachelus nenuphar.—Herbst.)

The different stages are shown in the accompanying wood-cut: (a) represents the grub much magnified; (b), the chrysalis, and (c), the beetle, both magnified; (d), the young fruit, showing the crescent-shaped mark made by the insect, and the curculio, life size, at its work.

There is perhaps no insect so well known by name as the Plum Curculio. The perfect insect belongs to the family known as the snout-beetles, from the shape of the head, which is elongated into a beak. It is a small, rough, grayish beetle, about one-fifth of an inch long. The females lay their eggs in the young fruit of plums and cherries, frequently destroying the whole crop.

REMEDIES.

The beetles are sluggish in the early morning, and drop from the trees if a sudden jar be given to the trunk. For this purpose a metal spike is driven into the trunk, which is struck sharply with an iron hammer. This gives the sharp jar necessary to dislodge the beetles which fall on sheets or into receptacles placed beneath the trees. They are then collected and destroyed.

Of late years abundant evidence has proved the efficacy of spraying the trees, as soon as the fruit has formed, with Paris green, 1 pound to 200 gallons of water, and ten days afterwards a second time with a weaker mixture, one pound, to 300 gallons. Should heavy rains occur immediately after these sprayings, they must be repeated.

POISONING.

Poisoning by using arsenical poison, Paris green or London purple, the last seems preferable, as it is cheaper, more readily mixed and more effective. One pound to 200 gallons of water is strong enough, spraying trees, Weir, says: "First, just before the blossom buds open: second, two weeks after the petals fall. If a weak, soapy kerosene emulsion is used at this spraying to mix the poisons in, it will also destroy the leaf lice, aphides, bugs and all other insects injurious to the fruit and foliage: and then a third spraying about June 10th, and your fruit is safe."