

COURTING AND MATING OF *OECANTHUS FASCIATUS*,
HARRIS.

BY J. P. JENSEN, ENTOMOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

It was my good fortune to observe during the latter part of August, in Southern Minnesota, the courting and mating of *Oecanthus fasciatus*, one of the tree-crickets as yet without a common name, unless we call it the "Dark Whistler," a name proposed by Professor Comstock.

The insect under observation was doing his best, and I watched the wonderful, rapid motion of the wings that were elevated above the back at an angle of about 60 degrees, and making a blur to the eye so fast were they being rasped together. A female was soon seen hurrying up the



FIG. 1.—Courting habits of *Oecanthus fasciatus*.

stem, but still near the base. She stopped, twirled her antennæ and walked a little higher, then ran out on a leaf and back again, plainly guided by the music. When within a foot of the male he detected her presence. The song changed, it was more broken. She ran out on another leaf searching for the male, and he bent out a little farther and apparently redoubled his efforts. The leaves were only a few inches apart, and she either saw or heard that he was still higher up, for she ran back to the stem, mounted to the leaf where the male was and ran out on it, but on the under side, placing herself longitudinally upon it. The male turned, placed himself in similar position and was quiet, the only motion noticed being the swaying and gently stroking together of the black