

are smoky, but clearer than those of the female. His hind body is somewhat flattened, rather widest behind, and ends with a conical horn. His hind legs are flattened, much wider than those of the female, and of a blackish colour; the other legs are rust-coloured, and more or less shaded with black. The length of his body varies from three-quarters of an inch to one inch and a quarter, and his wings expand from one inch and a quarter to two inches or more.

"An old elm tree in this vicinity (Cambridge, Mass.) used to be a favourite place of resort for the *Tremex columba*, or Pigeon Tremex, and around it great numbers of the insects were often collected, during the months of July and August and the early part of September. Six or more females might frequently be seen at once upon it, employed in boring the trunk and laying their eggs, while swarms of males hovered around them. For fifteen years or more, some large buttonwood trees in Cambridge have been visited by them in the same way. The female, when about to lay her eggs, draws her borer out of its sheath, till it stands perpendicularly under the middle of the body, when she plunges it, by repeated wriggling motions through the bark into the wood. When the hole is made deep enough she then drops an egg therein, conducting it to the place by means of the the two furrowed pieces of the sheath. The borer often pierces the bark and wood to the depth of half an inch or more, and is sometimes driven in so tightly that the insect cannot draw it out again, but remains fastened to the tree until she dies. The eggs are oblong oval, pointed at each end, and rather less than one twentieth of an inch in length. The larva, or grub, is yellowish white, of a cylindrical shape, rounded behind, with a conical horny point on the upper part of the hinder extremity, and it grows to the length of about an inch and a half. It is often destroyed by the maggots of two kinds of Ichneumon flies (*Pimpla atrata* and *Pimpla lunator*, Fabr.) These flies may frequently be seen thrusting their slender borer, measuring from three to four inches in length, into the trunks of trees inhabited by the grubs of the tremex, and by other wood-eating insects; and like the female tremex, they sometimes become fastened to the trees and die without being able to withdraw their borers."

In the *Canadian Entomologist*, November 1868, Vincent Clementi reports the capture in North Douro, Ontario, of several specimens of the Pigeon Termex; they were taken from an oak tree, which had been cut for cordwood, and were all found to be females.

THE SIGALPHUS CURCULIO PARASITE (*Sigalphus curculionis*) FITCH.

To those whose plum trees have been repeatedly ravaged by the Plum curculio and whose efforts have only been slightly successful in preventing the wholesale destruction of fruit, it will not be uninteresting to know that there are two known parasites of the curculio of which the following descriptions and illustrations are taken from Riley's Report, of 1870, for the State of Missouri.

"In 1860, in his address on the curculio delivered at the annual meeting of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, Dr. Fitch gave an account, accompanied with a figure, of a small Ichneumon-fly which he named *Sigalphus curculionis*, and which he believed was parasitic on the curculio. Before that time no parasite had been known to attack this pestilent little weevil, and even to the present time (1870), it is currently believed that no such parasite exists; for unfortunately the evidence given by Dr. Fitch was not sufficient to satisfy some of our most eminent entomologists. These parasites were in fact received by him from Mr. D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines, C. W., who had bred them from black-knot, from which he bred at the same time a certain number of curculios; but as other worms besides those of the curculio are likewise found in black-knot, we had no absolute proof that this fly was parasitic on the insect in question; consequently we find that Mr. Walsh, in his report as acting State Entomologist of Illinois rather ridicules the idea of its being a curculio parasite and endeavours to show that it is parasitic instead on the larva of his plum-moth (*Semasia prunivora*). But I have this year not only proved that poor Walsh was himself wrong in this particular inference, but that he was equally wrong in supposing his little plum-moth, so called, to be confined to plums; for I have bred it from galls (*Quercus frondosa*, Bassett), from haws, from crab-apples and abundantly from apples.

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