

They have not the power of jumping highly developed like other crickets, but can swim with ease if they fall into water. Their little shining black eyes, velvety coats and flexible bodies recall strongly the appearance of the otter, particularly when emerging from the water or crawling over stones. On the whole these interesting creatures are the most mammal-like insects I have ever seen. They keep in their burrows the greater part of the time, and I have only been able to catch sight of my specimen by going in quickly at night with a light. They move backwards with almost as great ease as forwards, the two caudal bristles being evidently very sensitive, for which reason they were designated caudal antennæ by one writer. The song of the male is described as "a low, continued, rather pleasant trill, quite similar to that of the common toad, but more shrill."

In Europe the Mole-cricket is described as being very injurious in certain localities from eating the young roots of plants and burrowing amongst the roots. There seems to be as much controversy, however, with regard to it as there is amongst farmers as to whether the mole is an injurious animal or not. Dr. Ritzema Bos says those who think that the Mole cricket is only injurious by burrowing beneath plants make a great mistake. The methods suggested for destroying it, should it at any time occur in large numbers, are the destruction of the eggs, which are laid to the number of from 200 to 400, in chambers about six inches beneath the surface of the ground, or killing the adults by means of poisoned baits, as grated carrot or potato mixed with arsenical substances.

Dr. Lintner says, Rep. VI., p. 151: "A method recommended by Kollar and approved by Curtis, as probably the best where the insect abounds, is to dig pits in the ground in the autumn, of a foot in diameter and two or three feet deep, to be filled with horse-dung and covered with earth. At the first frost all the crickets will be attracted to and congregate in these pits for warmth, where they can be conveniently killed." I shall be glad to hear from any reader of the ENTOMOLOGIST who may find this insect in his neighborhood, and also for any definite information concerning the food and habits. My jar is well filled with roots, and I frequently put a piece of raw meat on the surface of the ground, but I cannot say that I have ever seen that either it or the roots were much eaten. The ground is burrowed in every direction by clean burrows about as large as an ordinary lead pencil, and the Mole-cricket may sometimes be seen at night moving about in these burrows apparently in good health and quite at home.