

small hole a little above the lower girdle, and deposits in it its small yellow egg. From this egg there hatches out in a few days a small yellow footless grub, which proceeds to burrow downwards, eating the pith of the cane, and eventually causing its destruction."

Soon after the cane has been girdled the top begins to droop; and this is the time to destroy the insect, by cutting off the girdled canes below the lower ring and burning them. This insect appears to be common throughout Canada. I have seen abundant evidences of its work in the vicinity of Montreal, both on the wild and cultivated raspberries. It appears to be the insect referred to by Mr. Brown, in the Report for 1876, as a beautiful dark blue fly, of the *Ichneumon* species. There may have been *Ichneumons* flying about the bushes, but the insect that *girdled* the trees was undoubtedly an *Overea*.

The *Ichneumonidæ* are all parasitical upon other insects, depositing their eggs on, or in the body of, their victims, and are the best friends the agriculturist has; indeed, without their aid his task would be a hopeless one.

AFFECTING THE CURRANT.

ORDER LEPIDOPTERA—FAMILY *ÆGERIADÆ*—THE IMPORTED CURRANT BORER.—*Ægeria tipuliformis*, LINN.



Ægeria tipuliformis.

This troublesome pest has been introduced from Europe, and is now spread all over the country. The parent insect is a little clear-winged moth, and looks very like a wasp or ichneumon fly. It is of a dark blue color with three golden bands across the abdomen. They make their appearance in June, when they may be seen flying about the currant bushes in the sunshine. The female lays her eggs singly on the stems near the buds. As soon as they hatch out, the grubs eat their way into the centre of the stem, where they remain during the summer.

Before changing to the chrysalis state, they cut a passage through the stem just to the bark. The winter is passed in