

tacks are most noticeable in early spring, when it may be found on mint, sage, currant and gooseberry bushes, and often also on potatoes. It sucks the juices of the tender terminal leaves, causing them to shrivel up and turn black, and frequently severely injuring the plant. The standard remedy for these and other sucking insects is spraying with strong kerosene emulsion; where this cannot be applied, as in the case of many flowering plants, dusting with pyrethrum insect powder has been found quite effective. Much may be done by knocking off the bugs with a stick into a pan containing a little water covered with a film of coal-oil; this should be performed in the cool of the morning when the insects are less lively than during the heat of the day.

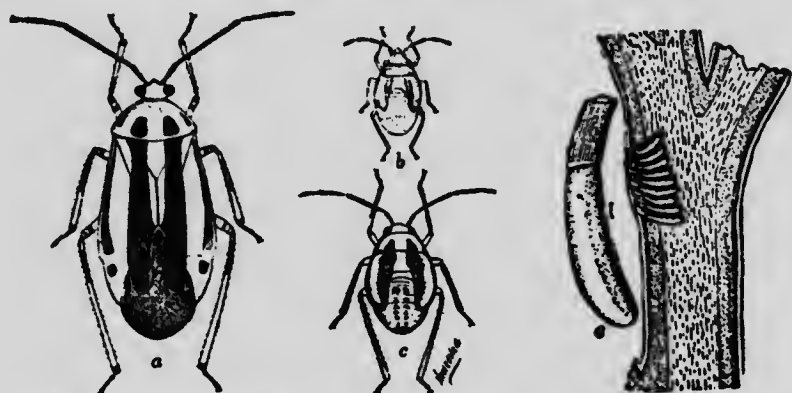


Fig. 16. Four-lined Plant-bug : *a*, adult ; *b* and *c*, immature nymphs ; *d*, eggs laid in a slit (*Lugger*).

WHITE GRUBS. These are the larvæ of May-beetles or "June-bugs" (*Lachnosterna*) which breed for the most part in old pastures. The beetles appear about the end of May or early in June and attack the tender foliage and buds of fruit and ornamental trees, often inflicting a considerable amount of damage. They come out at night and swarm about the trees, making a loud buzzing noise; many are attracted by lights in houses and cause some consternation among the inmates through their clumsy flight about the room and the noise that they produce; as they can neither sting nor bite no alarm need be caused by their presence. During the night they feed and by morning all disappear, hiding underground where the soil is loose and under grass or rubbish about fences and buildings. At this period boys might be employed to search for and kill them; trap-lanterns have sometimes been used with advantage, and spraying the trees they frequent with Paris green will destroy large numbers. The beetles deposit their eggs on the stems or roots of grasses just below the surface of the soil: from these the grubs hatch out and feed for two or three years underground. During the summer of their third season they change to the pupal state