

active at night, and I had also seen the idea ridiculed, and being somewhat sceptical on the point, resolved to test it. Accordingly I went out about midnight with lantern and sheet, and on jarring one tree down came two curculios, and from another tree one. When they drop to the ground from jarring in the day-time they usually remain motionless for a good while, feigning death. But there was no shamming about these creatures taken at this time of night, for they commenced to run about at once on the sheet, and fearing they would fly they were quickly transferred to a pill box. They were then taken into a room where there was a lamp burning, when on opening the box one of them at once took wing attracted by the lamp, and flew around the light. Thinking this activity might be due in part to the stimulus of a bright light, I placed them in a dark room for a while, and then approached them with the faintest glimmer of light, just enough to enable me to see them, when I observed them running about very quickly, faster than I have seen them move in bright daylight. This ended the experiments for that time, and the insects were closely shut up in a box for safety.

The next night the operation was repeated, and two curculios taken from one tree as before. These manifested just the same symptoms of activity as their predecessors, and along with them (now five in all) they were put into a box having a glass lid, with a small branch from a plum tree having five plums on it, each one of which had been carefully examined and found quite free from puncture or bite of any sort. The box was placed in a darkened room and covered with a black cloth so arranged that no light could possibly penetrate until its removal. Early in the morning the cloth was suddenly taken away and two of the curculios were found working on the plums, while the others were quiet or leisurely walking around in other parts of the box. The branch was at once taken out and examined: plum No. 1 had a puncture at the tip, hollowed out so that the skin was getting black; No. 2 was in the same state with a second large puncture in the side; No. 3 had two punctures on the tip, one large and one small one; No. 4, a small puncture near the base of the stem, while in No. 5 four eggs were deposited, and it was also punctured in four places, one of the punctures being very large, deep, and crescent shaped, a second quite shallow, barely through the skin. I observed that they were much less active in the morning than at night.

Being anxious to see how they would do their work in the day-time, another branch was cut with sound plums on it a little before noon and placed in the box with the same insects. When exposed to the sunlight they were nearly as active as in the night, occasionally flying around the box inside. They were left exposed under a slight shade afforded by a small tree