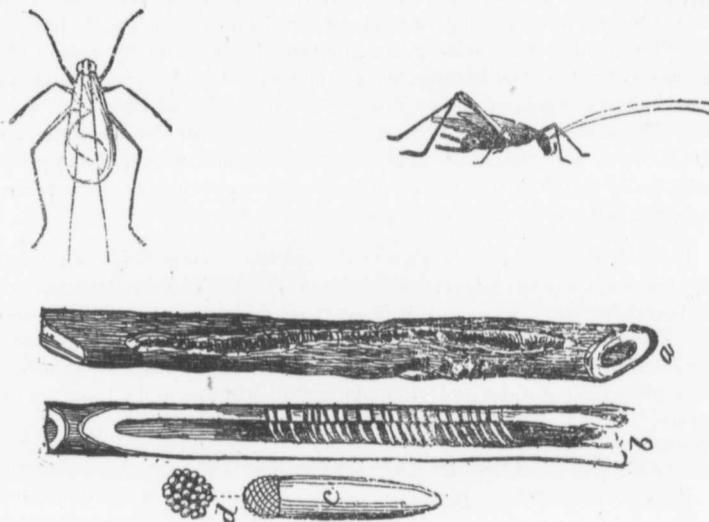


THE TREE CRICKET.

(Ecanthus Niveus)

In the Okanagan district I found this insect working on the young branches of the apple and plum trees, and I venture to say will be found troublesome on the raspberry canes. The insects are about seven-tenths of an inch long, of pale whitish green colour. They are exceedingly lively, and the males quite musical, chirping merrily with a loud, shrill note, among the bushes all the day. In the autumn they attain full growth, and it is then the female, in carrying out her instinctive desire to protect her progeny, becomes an enemy to the grower. She is furnished with a long ovipositor, which she thrusts obliquely more than half way through the limb or cane, and down the opening thus made she places one of her eggs. A second one is then placed in the same manner along side of the first, and so on until from five to fifteen eggs have been placed in a row.

Owing to the presence of these eggs the limb is much weakened and is liable to break on slight provocation. Sometimes the part beyond the punctures dies, but if it survives and escapes being broken in winter it is very apt to break from the action of the wind on the weight of foliage as soon as it has expanded in spring and the crop which would otherwise be realized is lost. About midsummer, or sometimes earlier, the insects hatch. They at once leave the limb or canes and do no further injury to them. At first they feed more or less on plant lice and later in the season on ripe fruit and other succulent food.

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