

HYMENOPTERA (*Bees, Wasps, etc.*)

ICHNEUMON FLIES.—These are our most common parasites of injurious insects, chiefly among the butterflies and moths. The various species vary much in size, some being several inches in length and others of minute form. See Figs. 14 and 15). The most common are *Thalassa*, with a very long tail, parasitic on pigeon tremex, and *Ophion*, with yellow body, generally compressed, living on the polyphemus moth and yellow-necked caterpillar.



Fig. 15.

BRACONIDS.—Sometimes also called Ichneumon flies. *Microgaster* lays eggs in the bodies of aphinx larvæ. The larvæ develop there, and just before the caterpillar perishes they leave it and spin their white, oblong, silken cocoons on its back. These egg-like bodies should not be disturbed, as adult *Microgaster*s will soon emerge.

Aphidius infests plant lice, but it is too small to be readily seen.

Macrocentrus (Delicate Lace String) is parasitic on codling moth, etc. (Fig. 16.)

CHALCIDS OR CHALCIS FLIES.—Small and parasitic. One species infests the cabbage butterfly, and others many troublesome larvæ.

VESPIDÆ OR WASPS.—These may be placed among the beneficial insects, as they subsist chiefly upon injurious forms.

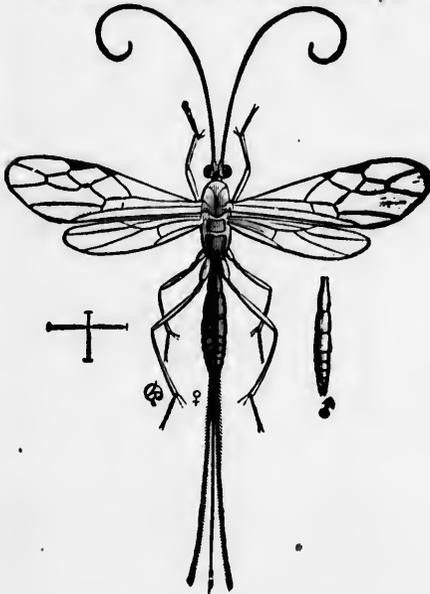


Fig. 16.

DIPTERA (*Flies—Two-winged*).

TACHINIDS.—The Tachina flies are larger than house flies. (Figs. 17 and 18) As valuable as the Ichneumon for parasitizing caterpillars, grasshoppers,

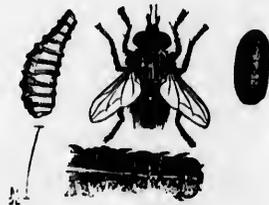


Fig. 17.

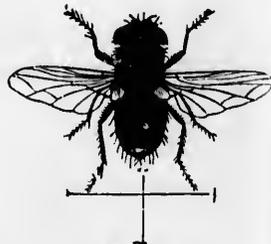


Fig. 18.

etc. Eggs worms are saw-fly lar abdomen, f

SYRPH plant lice.



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