

PHYTONOMUS PUNCTATUS, FABRICIUS.

The Punctured Clover-leaf Weevil.

BY A. H. KILMAN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.

A curculio new to Canada has appeared in this locality. Prevailing east winds about Aug. 10th wafted this new clover pest to our shores. This beetle, as far as I know, has not been mentioned in the ENTOMOLOGIST. It was introduced from Europe little more than three years ago. Appearing on the eastern seaboard, and taking the continent in the inverse order to the movement of the Colorado Potato Beetle, it is working rapidly westward. Last year no specimens were reported west of Rochester, while in Eastern New York the clover crop was destroyed by this insect. On the date above mentioned it appeared in Buffalo in such numbers that thousands were crushed on the pavements by the feet of passers-by. Simultaneous with this was its appearance in Ridgeway. I picked them from the fences and sidewalks, and found them in the grass on my lawn. Mr. Reinecke could have gathered them by the quart along the lake shore at Buffalo, where they had stranded after being carried by the wind far out upon the water. They have the extraordinary faculty of closing their tracheæ and suspending respiration while in the water, and an hour's sunshine on the sandy beach leaves them none the worse for a good soaking.

The beetle is two-fifths of an inch long, has a stout body of a dark brown color; sides of thorax and elytra dull yellow, a central yellow line on thorax, rows of black raised points along inner half of elytra with dashes of the same muddy yellow towards the rear. Each female has a "depositing power" of from 200 to 300 eggs. She punctures the clover stem and places an egg therein, or sometimes attaches it to the surface of the stem. The larva feeds upon the leaves, which it destroys rapidly, eating only during the night and hiding in the day time.

I am of the opinion that the advance guard of this insect invasion arrived last year, and it is the main body now; and further that those now arriving will go into winter quarters and open up a lively campaign in the spring. I am led to these conclusions by the fact that many clover fields in this and adjoining counties failed this season to blossom fully, the Clover Midge getting the blame. Whatever the sequel may show, we fear