

THE CLOVER-SEED FLY—A NEW INSECT PEST.

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In the summer of 1877, my attention was called to some "worms" which had been discovered in the heads of red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), and were said to be preying upon the seeds. They were found to be minute maggot-like creatures, hidden within the seed-pods and entirely destroying the seeds which they attacked. Numbers of them were subsequently detected in the examination of heads of clover taken from several localities in the vicinity of Albany, and in Warren County, N. Y. I was unable at the time to refer the insect to any described species, or to find any record of a similar depredation on clover seeds in this country or in Europe.

The following season, additional examples of infested clover heads were submitted to me, which had been sent from Mr. George W. Hoffman, President of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, from Elmira, N. Y. A number of the larvæ were obtained from these heads, and their careful examination enabled me to refer them to the Cecidomyiæ—of a species probably closely related to the well-known wheat-midge, *Cecidomyia destructor*. Several of the larvæ were preserved in alcohol, and the larger number placed in a pot of damp sand, in which they speedily buried themselves for their transformation. The perfect fly has not yet made its appearance, but it is hoped that the final change will soon take place and the specimens be secured.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, in this city, in January last, in a paper presented to the Society, on some Injurious Insects observed during the past year, I gave an account of this new depredator upon an important crop, and described its larva, as follows :

Cecidomyia trifolii, n. sp.—Head subacute, subtriangular, slightly rounded laterally on its posterior half, giving that portion a subquadrangular form ; a short cylindrical horny ? process at its tip, and two longer antennal processes, cylindrical, tapering apically. Body elliptical, moderately constricted at the joints, flattened on the sides, rather rounded behind, delicately shagreened, laterally at about the middle of each segment, a short fleshy papilliform process, with two short bristles of unequal