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POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ENTOMOLOGY NOTES ON THE BLACK APPLE LEAF-HOPPER.

(*Idiocerus fitchi* Van D.)

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Originally described by Fitch from New York State, this insect apparently occurs quite generally throughout the North-eastern United States and Canada. It is very common throughout the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.

INJURIES.

Many farmers who have noticed this insect at work, have considered it to be a pest of some importance. Most of the injuries that they have attributed to its agency, however, have been brought about by other causes. Where numerous, the insects swarm over the new growth and particularly about the blossom clusters, where they may easily be observed feeding. Though unquestionably some damage results from their work, it is apparent, from a careful study of their feeding habits, that they are of little importance as fruit pests. Numbers of the nymphs were placed on apple seedlings, and their effect on the plants noted. There was no noticeable curling or blotching of the leaves as a result of even a relatively large number of nymphs on a small seedling. The only effect that could be seen, was that occasionally a bead of clear sap would be seen oozing through a punctured blossom pedicel or leaf petiole. This might eventually result in the withering and dropping off of the affected part. It was evident, therefore, that the damage done was not serious, and that the presence of the pest in the orchard, even in large numbers, did not justify the alarm sometimes caused by its appearance.

DESCRIPTION OF LIFE STAGES.

Egg.—Length .065 to 0.737 mm. Width 0.167 to 0.187 mm.

Elongate, more or less cylindrical; widest near posterior extremity,

* Contributions from Entomological Division, Nova Scotia, Department of Agriculture.