

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO THE GRAPE.

ADDENDA TO REPORTS FOR 1870-71.

BY W. SAUNDERS, LONDON, ONTARIO.

- No. 17. The Rose beetle, *Macrodactylus subspinosus*, Fab.
18. The Achemon Sphinx, *Philampelus achemon*, Drury.

- No. 19. The Abbot Sphinx, *Thyreus Abbotii*, Swainson.
The Grape Seed Insect,
Isosoma vitis Saunders.
20. A Cut worm, *Agrotis*—?

In addition to the insects already referred to as injurious to the grape in Ontario in the Entomological Reports for 1870 and 1871, we have the following to submit to our readers.

No. 17. THE ROSE BEETLE (*Macrodactylus Subspinosus* Fab).

This insect commonly known as the Rose-bug, which for some years past has been reported as doing damage to grape vines in the United States, has always been present with us; but it has not, heretofore, as far as we know, been much complained of by grape growers in any part of Ontario. In the latter part of May, 1872, we received a note from Mr. John Ferguson, of Union, near Port Stanley, Ont., accompanied by a box of these insects, asking for information as to what he should do to get rid of them as they were destroying his grape vines. In a subsequent note he says, "they eat the leaves especially of the Clinton. I found a few on my Concords, but the number was small in comparison to those found on the Clinton; they seem to prefer it, and if left alone, they soon eat all the outer tissue of the leaf, and leave nothing but the net-work."

The fact of this insect showing a preference for the Clinton vine has been remarked before by the late Mr. Benj. D. Walsh, State Entomologist of Illinois, who suggested the taking advantage of this preference on the part of the insect, as a means of lessening the labour attending their destruction. In his first annual report on the "Noxious Insects of Illinois", page 24, he says "In particular seasons, as is well known, and in particular localities this insect occurs in prodigious swarms, and gathers upon grape vines so as to strip them almost entirely of their leaves. The only known remedy that is practically available, is to jar them off the vines and kill them; and of course if we can induce them to concentrate their forces upon one particular vine, and leave the rest alone, the labour of destroying them will be very greatly diminished."

Luckily for the grape grower this can be done. There is concurrent evidence from a great number of different sources, that the Rose-bug prefers the Clinton to all other cultivated varieties, and will gather upon that and leave the others unmolested.

In the *Canada Farmer* for 1867, page 327, the Rose Beetle is referred to as occasionally injurious to the vine, as well as many other shrubs and trees, and mention is made of its great abundance every year in one locality at Oakville; it is also spoken of in Harris' "Insects Injurious to Vegetation" as hurtful to the vine.

Fig. 1.



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FIG. 2.