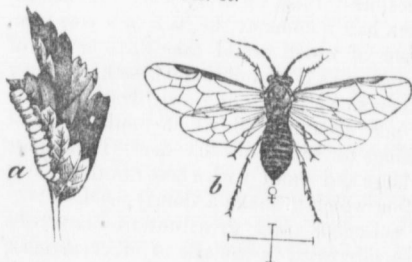


No. 2. THE NATIVE GOOSEBERRY, OR CURRANT SAW-FLY. (*Pristiphora grossulariae*, Walsh).

This insect, although not common in Canada, has been observed by Mr. G. J. Bowles, of Quebec, on his gooseberry bushes, and hence is worthy of mention. In figure 30

FIG. 30.



we give a representation of a female of this species, on a magnified scale—the hair line behind it showing the natural size—from which the reader will see that there is a close resemblance between the native saw-fly and the imported one. There are, however, differences which the skilled entomologist can readily detect, in the distribution of the veins on the wings, which locates it in a different family, *Pristiphora*; and moreover, a more palpable difference in the relative size of the insects, the native being but two-thirds the size of the imported species, in all its different stages. Mr. Benjamin D. Walsh, who discovered this insect, gives in the *Practical Entomologist*, p. 123, some additional distinctive features. The larva of the native saw-fly is always green, and never bears the numerous black spots so characteristic of the imported species; neither does it ever go under ground to spin its cocoon, but constructs that cocoon among the twigs and leaves of the bush on which it feeds. The winged insect of the second brood comes out the same season, instead of remaining in the chrysalis state all winter, so that it cannot then lay its eggs upon the leaves, but must necessarily lay them upon the twigs of the infested plants. Otherwise, if it laid them upon the leaves in September, which is the month in which the fly of the second brood appears, the eggs would be scattered along with the leaves in their fall, far away from the infested bushes, and the young larvae would starve when they hatched out the next spring, and the species become extinct. The very young larvae do not gather in numbers upon one particular leaf, as in the imported species, but distribute themselves pretty evenly over the whole bush. The sexes also resemble each other very closely in the native insect, as remarked by Mr. Walsh in a second excellent paper on this saw-fly in the *American Entomologist*, vol. 2, p. 20.

The first brood of these larvae may be looked for about the end of June, and the second during the latter part of August; and while they infest both the currant and gooseberry, they appear to show a decided preference for the latter. Their effects on the bushes, when numerous, are very similar to those of the imported insect, and, if necessary, they may be treated with the hellebore mixture with similar good results. From the reports of Messrs. Walsh and Riley, it would seem that they are common, and often troublesome, in the States of Illinois and New York.

No. 3. THE CURRANT GEOMETER OR MEASURING WORM. (*Ellopiæ [Ab. raxis] ribearia*, Fitch).

This is a very common insect in many portions of Canada, but has shown itself more destructive thus far in the eastern than in the western parts of our country. It may be readily distinguished from the saw-fly caterpillars by its peculiar mode of progression—for having its feet placed at each extremity, it arches its body into a sort of loop at every step, and is hence popularly called a measuring worm, or span worm.



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