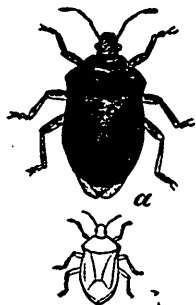


Such a spot having been fixed on, the larva begins to contract the length of its body and to spin a cocoon over itself, which, when finished, is nearly oval, smooth, of a brownish color and papery texture, and within this it changes to a small brown chrysalis, from which the fly escapes late in June or early in July. Shortly after this eggs are again deposited, from which another brood of worms are hatched; these complete their growth before summer closes, and in most instances change to chrysalids before winter, and thus these tormentors lie dormant until spring comes round again.

There may possibly be more than two broods during the season; it is certain that there are not many weeks during the whole of summer when you cannot find the larvae on the bushes in some stage of their growth. It is well known that the flies composing the separate broods do not all appear at one time; some are weeks later than others, and their progeny are later in proportion; but whether this tardiness in maturing on the part of some specimens is sufficient to account for the almost continual presence of the larvæ from May to September, we are unable at present to decide.

The Saw-fly has natural enemies, but, unfortunately, they do not as yet appear anywhere in sufficient numbers to materially lessen its increase. One small parasitic insect attacks the egg, and there are two other species which prey upon the larva. Besides these we have another friend in a member of the Heteroptera or true bug family, see fig. 19. This insect is about the size of a common Lady-bird, with the head, thorax and legs black, and the abdomen red, with an elongated black spot in the centre, crossed by a whitish line. On approaching one of the worms they thrust into it their sharp proboscis and quietly suck its juices until it shrivels up and dies. In the figure this insect is magnified; the outline below shows its natural size.

Fig. 19.



It is fortunate that we have a remedy which is sure and speedy, and while it brings sudden death to the worm, does not injure either the bushes or fruit. We refer to powdered Hellebore, which is best used by mixing two tablespoonfuls of the powder in two or three gallons of water, and showering it on the bushes with a watering pot.