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BALANINUS—ITS FOOD HABITS.

BY JOHN HAMILTON, M. D., ALLEGHENY, PA.

All the described species of *Balaninus* inhabiting America north of Mexico when larvæ live in the fruit (nuts and acorns) of the various species of *Quercus*, *Castanea*, *Corylus* and perhaps *Fagus* of the order *Cupuliferæ*, and *Carya* of the *Juglandaceæ*. Acorns, somewhat largely used in this country in the arts and in the manufacture of certain dietetics, are mostly imported, the native production being rendered almost worthless by these larvæ; and our chestnuts as soon as collected must be kiln-dried or otherwise treated, which renders them greatly inferior to those of foreign countries. *Balaninus* has not yet received any attention from an economic standpoint, but from the above would

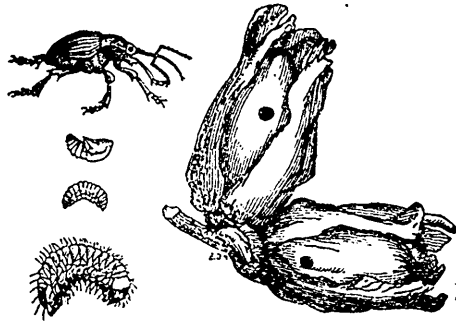


FIG. 1.

seem deserving of some consideration in that direction. The systematic separation of the species has only been effected recently and definite characters furnished for their recognition. Say probably had all the now described species before him, and excluding *proboscoideus*, included them in his *rectus* and *nasicus*. The failure of Say, one of the clearest of describers, to make his species recognizable by description, is suggestive of the absence of points of saliency, and has been the source of much confusion in our literature, some of which is evidenced in the earlier volumes of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST.

NOTE.—Figure 1, drawn by Miss Ormerod, represents a European species, *Balaninus nucum* Linn., which feeds upon filberts. It conveys a good idea of the characteristic forms of the genus.