

THE WAVY STRIPED FLEA-BEETLE (*Phyllotreta sinuata* Steph.)

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The fact that this insect has not before been reported as a pest in Canada serves as an excuse for the publication of a short note concerning it.

Phyllotreta sinuata is an introduced species and is generally distributed throughout England and the continent of Europe. Horn in 1889 describes it as occurring in America from the New England States to Georgia and westward to Missouri. Sanderson states that in the Middle States the larvæ mine in the leaves of wild pepper grass (*Lepidium virginicum*) and Professor Blatchley informs me that it is a very common species throughout Indiana.

My attention was first drawn to the insect in June, 1913, when the larvæ were observed mining in the leaves of cress and feeding on the foliage of radish. The adults were obtained by rearing these larvæ and were also collected in the field. The cress was practically destroyed by the beetle and its larvæ.

The insect is again present at Macdonald College this season feeding on radish, turnips and cabbage. It is often associated with the turnip flea-beetle (*Phyllotreta vittata* Fab.) and it is probably owing to its close resemblance to this species that it has escaped detection, for recently, in examining a collection of *P. vittata* which was made in 1912, I found several specimens of *P. sinuata* which I had not noticed at the time they were collected.

The larva of *P. sinuata* is a small cruciform grub, about 4 mm. long. The head and pronotum are dark brown, the latter being crossed by a light-coloured median line. The second and third thoracic segments as well as the first eight abdominal segments bear several brown setigerous tubercles of various sizes. The last abdominal segment is deep brown or black and fringed



Fig. 36—*Phyllotreta sinuata* Steph., larva.