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THE PLUM CURCULIO IN ONTARIO, NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE INJURIES, CONDITIONS FAVORING THE INSECT, AND MEANS OF CONTROL.

PART I—NATURE OF THE INJURIES.

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The Plum Curculio is found practically all over the fruit-growing portions of Ontario, and is one of our most destructive and, under some circumstances, difficult insects to control. The name "Plum Curculio" is misleading because the insect attacks not only plums but apples, pears, cherries, peaches, apricots, quinces and, on rare occasions, gooseberries. In our experience apricots are worst attacked, then plums and sweet cherries; after these sour cherries, apples, pears, peaches and quinces in the order named. We have only in one locality seen gooseberries attacked.

Kinds of Injuries.—There are several kinds of injuries: First, there is the injury due to egg laying and the accompanying crescent-shaped scar made by the female almost immediately after the act. There may be anywhere from one to a dozen or more eggs, each with its crescent, to a single fruit. If such fruit does not drop prematurely, it is usually either disfigured by the enlargement of the crescent into a brown scar or calloused area, which by its nearly semi-circular shape still shows its origin, or is deformed by a depression caused by the growth being checked at the point of oviposition but being continued all around it. There may be several of these depressed areas, some of them quite deep, on a single fruit. This type of deformity is very common on apples and pears but much more rare on other fruits. Some of the apples and pears are so much misshapen that they are totally unfit for market. Such fruit is often spoken of as being "knobby." The pear has the habit of producing stone cells at the injured places.