

The larva when hatched soon eats its way into the wood, where it forms channels or galleries through and through the solid interior. When full grown it is a large, soft, white grub, nearly cylindrical in form and destitute of feet. The head is large, of a reddish-brown colour, and is armed with a pair of powerful jaws; the next joint behind the head is flat and horny, and larger than the others, the body tapering a little from this point backwards. The chrysalis state is passed within the burrow, and the beetle appears late in June or during the month of July. As this insect lives a long time in the larval state, the beetle is often developed after the timber has been built into a house, when, suddenly emerging from its concealment, it becomes a source of wonder to the inhabitants of the dwelling. When burrowing into the wood, the larva makes a noise not unlike the boring of an augur, which on a still night may be heard in the woods for a considerable distance, and such noises occurring in a house where the cause has not been suspected has often given rise to superstitious notions and excited in the timid much alarm. This beetle is very generally distributed throughout the Northern United States and Canada, and in the lumbering districts is sometimes excessively abundant. One instance is on record where nearly three hundred of the beetles were seen at one time on a single pine tree. As these insects are partial to cut timber, they often greatly injure logs which are allowed to remain a season over in the mill-yard.

MONOCHAMMUS SCUTELLATUS.

This beetle derives its specific name from its white scutellum situated at the junction of the wing-covers with the thorax. It varies in length from three-quarters of an inch to an inch, and usually occurs most abundantly in June. In fig. 20 we have a very good representation of this insect. The body is black above and below, and thickly pitted with irregular impressions. On the wing-cases there are a number of scattered whitish spots of various shapes and sizes, which, when examined with a magnifying lens, are found to be formed of dense clumps of short, whitish hairs, which often disappear by being rubbed off. On each side of the thorax is a thick, triangular spine; the antennæ are many-jointed, and in the female are about the same length as the body, while in the male they are nearly twice that length.

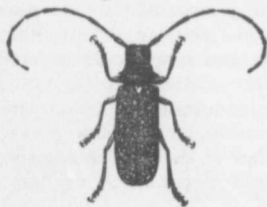


Fig. 20.

The larva of this insect is also a thick, white grub, without feet. The body is divided into a number of well-marked segments, the head as in the species last described being furnished with a strong pair of jaws. This larva infests the white pine chiefly after the lumber has been cut or newly fallen, and injures it by boring large, oval-shaped cavities, which extend for long distances through the interior of the log. In some localities these insects are very plentiful, literally swarming on pine trees. They are common in the lumbering regions of Canada and the Northern States.

CRIOCEPHALUS AGRESTIS.

Another injurious beetle belonging to the same family, but having much shorter horns, is known under the name of *Criocephalus agrestis*. This beetle is of a blackish-brown colour, with three large irregular indentations on the top of the thorax and two ridges on each of the wing-covers. The antennæ are about half the length of the body. The eggs of this insect are laid on the pine trees, and the larva when hatched bores into the wood, perforating the trunk in all directions, making a flattened cylindrical hole. When full-grown it is about an inch long, is white, footless, with a brown head. The anterior portion of the body is somewhat thicker than the hinder segments. The larva changes to a chrysalis within its burrow, and produces the beetle late in May or early in June.