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THE NORTHERN MOLE-CRICKET (*Gryllotalpa borealis*, BURM.)

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Anyone finding the strange-looking insect shown at fig. 1 will at once recognize it as the Northern Mole-cricket. It is apparently an uncommon insect in Canada, and it is partly to ascertain from the readers of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST whether or not this is the case that I am writing these notes upon a specimen which I have had in confinement for some months. I have been trying for years to get living specimens, but only succeeded last autumn when I had a fine female sent to me by Mr. W. W. Hilborn, who had caught it in his garden at Leamington, in Essex County, Ont. A short time afterwards I received from the same locality, from Mr. G. H. Mills, a male, but this was unfortunately injured in transit and died the day after arrival. There is to my mind nothing more interesting than keeping insects alive and watching their habits. This, too, after a little experience, becomes an easy matter if their habits are considered. I cannot, however, say that my Mole-cricket has been a very entertaining pet owing to its subterranean and nocturnal habits. I prepared a home for it in a large glass jar, 8 inches in diameter, and filled to the depth of about a foot with light, rich, sandy loam. Upon this was placed a potato and a small sod of lawn grass. The potato and grass soon threw out vigorous roots which now reach to the bottom of the jar. In the soil were also placed some earth-worms, as the food of Mole-crickets (like that of the other members of the *Gryllidæ*, or crickets to which it belongs) is of a mixed nature, and they are said to be particularly partial to earth-worms.

The name Mole-cricket is very appropriate for this insect, it is plainly a cricket, and at the same time its habits and even general appearance, but particularly the form and uses of its strong fore-legs, closely resemble those of the little mammal from which it takes its name. Our excellent