

THE ROSE LEAF-HOPPER.



THE leaf-hoppers form a large and interesting family of the true bugs. They are especially distinguished by the long third joints of the hind legs, which are covered and armed with a row of spines on each margin. These long legs enable them to leap rapidly and some distance, a fact to which their common name of leaf-hopper is due. Nearly all of them are small and slender insects with blunt or pointed heads of the shape shown at Fig. 564. They feed upon a large number of plants, being especially abundant upon the grasses of pastures and meadows, where they frequently rise in swarms as one walks along. Professor Herbert Osborn has lately estimated, after a careful study of the subject, that one-half of the available nutriment from pastures often goes down the throats of these little pests. Probably no leaf-hopper attracts more general attention the country over than the one infesting rose bushes. Nearly half a century ago Dr. Harris wrote: "There is a little leaf-hopper that lives upon the leaves of rose bushes and is very injurious to them. In its perfect state it is rather less than three-twentieths of an inch long. Its body yellowish white, its wing covers and wings are white and transparent, and its eyes, claws and piercer brown. The male has two recurved appendages at the tip of its hind body. Swarms of these insects may be found in various stages of



FIG. 564.

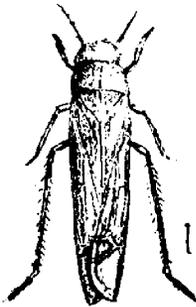


FIG. 565.

growth on the leaves of the rose bush through the greater part of summer, and even in winter upon house plants. Their numerous cast skins may be seen adhering to the under side of the leaves. They pair and lay their eggs about the middle of June, and they probably live through the winter in the perfect state concealed under fallen leaves and rubbish on the surface of the ground." Fig. 565. The nymph or pupa of the rose leaf-hopper is shown somewhat magnified at Fig 564, while the dult, also enlarged, is shown at Fig 565. The back of the pupa is protected by numerous elongated spinose hairs. The injury to the leaf is manifested by the appearance of numerous white specs on its upper surface. This pest is easily destroyed in its immature stages by pyrethrum, kerosene emulsion, or some form of tobacco.—C. M. WEED, *Ohio Expert Station*.