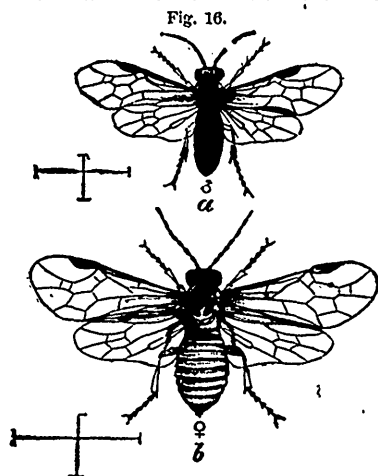


their natural size. The male is nearly as large as the common house-fly,



but with a more slender body and glossier wings. Its head is black, spotted with dull yellow, with the antennae brownish black; the thorax or anterior portion of the body is black, with a yellow spot at the base, and in front of each of the fore wings; the abdomen or hinder portion is black above, yellowish underneath and at the tip. Its legs are bright yellow; the wings glossy, with black or brownish black veins. The female is larger than the male and differs from it chiefly in the color of the body, being mostly yellow, instead of black. These flies

are active only during the warmer parts of the day; at other times they are quiet, indeed almost torpid.

The eggs are laid on the surface of the larger veins or ribs on the underside of the leaves; they are arranged in long and regular rows, as shown in fig. 17, each female depositing about a hundred or more. We have counted as many as 118 squeezed from the body of a female just escaped from the chrysalis, and as the eggs are then very soft and easily ruptured, it is probable that some of them were broken in counting, and thus escaped notice. This process of egg-laying is continued throughout May, so that you have eggs hatching almost daily during the latter part of the month, on bushes which are, perhaps, covered with worms from half an inch to an inch long. It is probable that the female fly lays her stock of eggs at one time, and that the subsequent deposits are made by those who have escaped later from the pupa state. The eggs, as found on the leaves, are about one-twentieth of an inch long, four times as long as broad, rounded at each end, and having a

Fig. 17.

