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PULVINARIA INNUMERABILIS, RATHVON.

BY THE EDITOR.

This insect, which has commonly been known as the Grape-vine Bark-louse, might with perhaps greater propriety be now designated the Maple-tree Bark-louse, for the reason that it has been more frequently found on maples, and inflicted more injury on these trees, than it has on grape vines. The great abundance of this insect during the past season has called general attention to it and elicited many enquiries in reference to its history and habits; indeed, in many sections of Western Ontario, as well as in the adjoining States of Michigan and New York, it has appeared in such swarms as to endanger the lives of the trees attacked. Branches have been sent to us so thickly covered with the insect in its various stages of growth that they could not be handled without crushing some of the numerous population.

The earliest description of this insect was given by Dr. S. S. Rathvon, of Lancaster, Pa., in 1854, who at that time gave the results of several years' observation on this species, which had occurred in his neighborhood on the Basswood or American Linden trees (*Tilia americana*). He found them to swarm in such countless hosts that he gave the insect the significant name of *innumerabilis*. The late Dr. Fitch next published an account of it in the Transactions of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society for 1859, since which several authors have figured and described this insect; but its life history was not fully unfolded until taken in hand by the late lamented J. D. Putnam, of Davenport, Iowa, who published in 1879, in the Report of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, a most elaborate and complete description of its life history, illustrated with two plates crowded with figures representing the various stages of development, all drawn by himself from nature. To these several publications we are mainly indebted for the facts here presented.