

"*Græca obscura*, as Linnæus puts it." The foreign authors referred to have evidently fallen into error in this matter.

Let us now see what we have before us concerning the Psylla. Mr. Fletcher, in his interesting paper on the Homoptera, in the Society's last report, gives us Prof. Riley's notice of the Flea-lice of the Nettle-tree "in full." That notice is a mere allusion, a reference to a gall, not a proper description of the insect, as Prof. Riley assures us. The Professor tells us also that *P. venusta* has not been properly described. Osten Sacken's account, supplied to me by a friend, is this: "I raised out of the gall a beautiful large Psylla—*Ps. venusta* n. sp.—with the wings varied with black. The peculiar shape of the apex of the metasternum and the venation of the wings will, perhaps, necessitate to make a new genus for this species." Mr. Fletcher has shown that the tree, *Celtis occidentalis*, is rare in Lower Canada. When, then, I met with this rare tree, and found *the* undescribed Psylla upon it, I felt justified in sending a description of the insect to the ENTOMOLOGIST. But, really, the tone of Prof. Riley's remarks gives rise, within me, to an uneasy feeling that, somehow, I have been trespassing on the Professor's private preserve of Pachy-psyllids. I can only offer as my excuse that, as Entomologists, we want information. What information have we concerning the Psylla we are considering, apart from my own description, and Mr. Fletcher's admirable account published subsequently? What, beside the illustrations, has Prof. Riley added to our stock? He tells us that he called an insect, already named *P. venusta*, "*P. celtidis-grandis*"; that this insect is very large (Osten Sacken had told us it was large); that there are differences, as regards position and size, between the gall it produces and that produced by *P. celtidis-mamma*; that *P. celtidis-mamma* so closely resembles another species, however, that "without the galls, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to separate them—a not uncommon occurrence among gall-producing species."

Now, an accidental puncture, by the mother Psylla, of the leaf-stalk, through which the nourishment of the leaf flows, would naturally produce a larger excrescence than a puncture of a vein; and a larger supply of food would as naturally produce a larger insect. We know, to our sorrow and perplexity, that the rage for re-classification, and for raising varieties into species, is becoming a vice on this side the Atlantic. And we really have nothing before us to show that the *P. venusta* of Osten Sacken, and