

ARTICLE XXV.—On *Aphis Avenæ*. By GEORGE LAWSON,  
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(For the *Canadian Naturalist*).

In my Report on the Insects affecting the Field Crops, &c., in Canada, during the season of 1861, notice was taken of the sudden appearance of the Wheat or Grain Aphis (not found to be identical with the *Aphis Avenæ* of Europe,) in alarming numbers on Wheat, Oats, Rye, &c. During the present season (1862) the insect has played over again the part which it took in 1861, and which created so much alarm among our farmers. They are better acquainted with the stranger now, knowing that he comes merely to suck the green juicy grain without the means of doing much mischief; but, having obviously become a permanent colonist, it is desirable that a few facts connected with his first appearance and settlement in our country should be placed on record in the *Canadian Naturalist*.

In the beginning of August, 1861, ears of wheat infested with this insect were transmitted to me by several farmers and others in the neighbourhood of Kingston, all of whom regarded the insect as a new pest to the country. The earliest examples were received from Professor Williamson, Portsmouth, John Duff, Esq., Princess Street, A. Drummond, Esq., Manager of the Montreal Bank, Messrs. Platt, Napanee, and from farmers in the neighbourhood of Odessa, and in Pittsburg. A few days afterwards reports were found in the newspapers of its appearance in various parts of Upper and Lower Canada, and over a considerable portion of the Northern States; all reports spoke of the insect as new and unknown to the farmers. More special enquiry among entomological friends and reference to published works, only served to confirm the surmise that there existed no record or tradition of its previous occurrence in our fields. Prof. Williamson, who had for many years observed with care the insects affecting the crops in this locality, had not previously seen this species of Aphis on any of the grains; numerous farmers of whom enquiries were made in different parts of the country knew nothing of the insect in former years. And, lastly, Dr. Asa Fitch, the able entomologist to the State of New York, whose keen eye has added so much to our knowledge of economic entomology, recognised in the Aphis a new vagabond whose photograph and antecedents required to be reported to the State authorities.

The insect is individually minute, like all the Aphides, but pre-