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## ON SOME OF OUR COMMON INSECTS.

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### 16.—THE GOOSEBERRY SAW-FLY (*Nematus ventricosus*, Klug.)

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BY THE EDITOR.

This prolific pest, known also in the larval state as the Currant Worm, is now so widely disseminated, and, at this particular season of the year, so abundant and destructive, that it may well be classed among our commonest insects, and is one in which all cultivators of the gooseberry and currant must take some interest.

The Saw-flies, the parents of this troublesome brood, usually spend the winter in the chrysalis state, enclosed in a tough, papery-looking, silken cocoon, sometimes on and sometimes under the surface of the ground, and occasionally fastened on the stems of the currant or gooseberry bushes on which they have been feeding, or in some sheltered spot near by. They make their appearance very early in the season, usually about the third week in April, but sometimes a week later, depending on the temperature; and by the time the gooseberry bushes are bursting into leaf, these enemies have paired, and the females are ready to deposit their eggs on the new and tender foliage. The gooseberry bushes develop leaves before the currant bushes, and whether it is from this cause alone or from a preference for the gooseberry foliage, we know not, but we find that the gooseberry is the first attacked, and often, if let alone, many bushes will be stripped quite bare of foliage before the eggs deposited on the currant are hatched; on this account the gooseberry bushes require the first attention.

Both male and female flies are represented in fig. 16, but magnified. The upper one (*a*) is the male, *b* the female; the hair lines below show