



Fig. 7.

This is a curious case, showing an incomplete copying of the male characters, accompanied by considerable distortion. None of the organs affected are perfect images of their counterparts in the male, though the left mandible is sufficiently near to suggest that sex at once.

The figures will show the mandibles from above, the left on account of the downward curve of the tip, appearing shorter in proportion than it should be, and, owing to their position, the lower series of teeth is not shown.

### COLOUR-BLINDNESS AMONG ENTOMOLOGISTS.

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It is well known that a small percentage of the people in this country, and perhaps in all countries, are more or less colour-blind, and it is a noteworthy fact that such persons are often entirely unconscious of it or do not fully appreciate its disadvantages. The officials of the railroads and certain other corporations test the applicants for situations, and if they are found to be colour-blind, or not able to distinguish colours accurately, they are not employed. It will be readily seen that if a railroad engineer or the officer of the deck on one of our large passenger ships could not distinguish between red and green signal lights in the night, most disastrous accidents might be the result.

An entomologist might be more or less colour-blind on some colours and be entirely unconscious of the fact, but the results in his descriptive work would be faulty and more or less misleading, according to the degree of imperfection in his colour vision. A correspondent wrote me a short time ago that he had a larva which he called green, but his assistant declared it to be white. It is possible that if these gentlemen were tested, the colour vision of one or the other would be found more or less imperfect.

It is to prevent any possible errors in descriptive entomology because of colour-blindness that we have adopted the plan of testing all the graduate students in entomology in the Massachusetts Agricultural College.