

granary weevil, rice, pine, nut, water, and other weevils. Perhaps the only erroneous use of weevil made in this country was with the little yellow maggot of the wheat fly.

Entomologists most often write *plum weevil*, and pomologists use *curculio*, which is the name generally used by farmers and others. Evidently this name was adopted from its scientific generic title, as then known in the early part of this century, but almost before its adoption into common parlance, it was removed from scientific nomenclature. Had it not been introduced then, it would hardly be found in the English vocabulary now. It is in use nowhere else at the present time, being an obsolete technical word, known only in the books of the earlier writers on insects; and in its original use by Pliny and the Latins, over 1800 years ago, it was applied to the corn worm, which by the English was called *weevil*, and by the French *calendre*, since Latinized into *Calandra* by Clairville for the name of a genus, containing our corn and rice weevils.

The word *curculio* reached its greatest ascendancy when Linnæus, 120 years ago, transferred the name from the Romans into his natural system, employing it in a generic sense to designate all snout beetles.

Westwood,* in 1839, states that "In this tribe of insects, as elsewhere, from the multiplicity of named groups into which the old Linnæan genus has been separated, without the adoption of any principle regulating the retention of the old generic name, it has been entirely sunk, so that we find no modern genus *Curculio*."

It has, however, been retained by some classifiers for a few beetles, not including the plum weevil, until now, while all writers employ a family name, *Curculionidæ*.

The plum weevil was first described by Herbst, in 1797, under the name *Curculio nenuphar*. The specific name *nenuphar* is the French name for the great European water lily (*Nymphæa alba*).

About 1830, Schonherr erected the genus *Conotrachelus*, meaning conical thorax or throat. At the abandonment of the name *Curculio*, our plum weevil fell into this genus, and hence is known as *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, Herbst.

There are about thirty species of *Conotrachelii* in N. America, all agreeing in structure quite closely with the plum *Conotrachelus*. The

* Westwood, Introduc. Mod. Classif. Insec 3, I., p. 348.