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## OBSERVATIONS ON CERTAIN PLANT LICE OF THE GENUS APHIS.

BY THOMAS G. GENTRY, GERMANTOWN, PA.

That the Aphides in the spring time are wingless, virgin females, is an opinion that has been carefully entertained by some of the most distinguished naturalists and physiologists in the world. Bonnet, Reaumur, Owen, Huxley, &c., have especially studied this interesting class of insects, and have given expression to the above opinion in their writings. But this, there are strong reasons for asserting, must be taken in a restricted sense, so far, at any rate, as our own Aphidæ are concerned.

Whilst engaged recently in an examination of a species which was observed feeding upon the leaves and tender shoots of *Rumex crispus*, with the view of testing its manner and rate of reproduction, several clusters of the insect were met with, each of which, contrary to expectation, contained one or two winged specimens. These, in addition to the possession of wings, differed still further from the apterous ones in the superior length of the antennæ, and in the remarkable fulness of the thorax above; this fulness being undoubtedly necessary for the attachment of the wings and the muscles by which they are controlled. In color the wingless specimens were entirely jet black, which, however, in those endowed with the power of flight, was somewhat relieved by the presence of a light fulvous annulus upon each antenna and tibia.

The presence of wings in some of the specimens at this season of the year, in view of the assertions of naturalists to the contrary, would seem to imply the existence of males. This impression does seem to be further heightened and strengthened by comparison with drawings of the male rose Aphis in "Duncan's Transformation of Insects." To be assured