

They gain their common name from their peculiar springing organ. Towards the caudal end of the abdomen are attached a pair of tail-like appendages, together called the furcula, which are normally bent forward, under tension, beneath the insect, and the ends are held in a little catch known as the tenaculum. When released from the tenaculum, the furcula kicks forcibly downwards and backwards and jerks the insect into the air. Anyone who remembers the goose bone jumping-jack—a homely toy unknown, I fear, by the present sophisticated generation of children—will readily understand the springtail's leaping apparatus.

At least four species of Collembola occur in the vicinity of Arnprior during the winter:—*Isotoma nigra* Macg., *Achorutes nivicola* Fitch, and two unidentified species. *I. nigra* is fairly common, and sometimes forms the majority of the springtails found on the snow, but generally *A. nivicola* is in excess, and towards spring often appears in such vast numbers that the most casual observer cannot fail to notice it. From its jumping habit it is popularly known as the "snow-flea," although, of course, it is not related in any way to the real fleas, (Siphonaptera).

*A. nivicola*, which Dr. J. W. Folsom identifies with the *A. socialis* of Europe, may be described untechnically as a blue-black insect two millimeters long by one-quarter millimeter wide at its broadest part. It has a well marked head, bearing two somewhat divergent short antennae which it keeps in constant motion. Its mouth parts are sunk in the head, a peculiarity characteristic of all the Collembola. Its sixteen simple eyes are arranged in two groups of eight each on either side of the head. It has an elongated but stout segmented body, the thorax consisting of three segments each bearing a pair of short legs on which the insect runs very actively. The abdomen has six segments and tapers rapidly towards the tail. The jumping apparatus is as already described. The whole insect is sparsely covered with short fine hairs.

Any day of the winter, from November to March, when the temperature is not below 30° F., *A. nivicola* can be found on the snow near old log fences, and along roads and clearings. They seem always to occur along the edge of open spaces of some kind, and I have never observed them in the middle of a wood of any extent. Although they sometimes come out in considerable numbers in November and December, the really great swarms do not appear until the first mild days of spring. Towards the end of March one often sees them like thickly