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## LIFE-HISTORY NOTES ON TWO COLEOPTERA (PARNIDÆ).

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### *Psephenus lecontei* Lec.

Although many notes, brief references, and figures of the larva (fig. 3), water penny, of this beetle have appeared from time to time in American literature, no consecutive account of its life-history has as yet been published. As this extremely interesting species is found very widely distributed in America and is of considerable interest on account of its peculiar larval form it seems to me that a short account, though gathered from desultory observations extending over the past two years, would not be out of place at this time.

Ordinarily the beetles are not usually observed by the collector though practically everyone who has any interest in entomology has seen the peculiar larvæ on the under side of stones, etc., in any of our rapid streams. In some streams they are very abundant and usually so in the swifter-flowing portions, particularly where the stones break the surface of the water into ripples. Here also the beetles are found, often in considerable numbers, but not in the water. H. G. Hubbard, in the *American Entomologist* for 1880 (p. 73), well described the habits of the adults. Both males and females may usually be found, particularly during the heat of the day, gathered upon stones in mid-stream which just break the surface of the water. They are very active, flying about, and chasing one another over the stones. I have never seen them plunge into the water nor suffer themselves to get wet. They are usually very easily frightened and one has to approach cautiously with a net in order to catch them; for they take sudden flight and one can scarcely follow their movements. However, if one will look around carefully they will usually be found only a few feet away actively playing on another stone.

\*Contribution from the Entomological Laboratory of Cornell University.