

The Buffalo Tree-Hopper.

(*Ceresa bubalus* Fab.)

By W. H. Brittain, Provincial Entomologist.

A number of tree hoppers are known to deposit their eggs in the twigs of the apple and pear, but the buffalo tree-hopper is the only species that causes any particular harm by so doing. This is a peculiar triangular insect with the front angles of the thorax produced into horn-like projections, which gives to the insect an appearance suggestive of the name it bears. The nymphs are a brownish grey in color, triangular in shape and the dorsal surface is beset with strong spines.

Injuries.

The damage is done by the female bug in depositing her eggs in the twigs and smaller limbs. Two slightly crossed incisions are made close together and into these incisions are inserted numbers of eggs, which lie in a double row beneath the bark. As the wound thus made begins to heal, the scars enlarge with the growth of the limbs, which then present a very unsightly appearance. Young fruit trees growing in sod, are frequently severely checked in this way, and even the young growth of older trees may suffer to some extent.

Life History.

Only the egg state is spent in the apple and pear, the nymphs feeding upon certain weeds that grow in the orchard but chiefly upon the sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). The insects reach maturity through the latter half of August and September and shortly afterwards the eggs are laid. They remain in the egg state during the winter months, hatching in the spring or early summer into the strongly spined nymphs that drop to the ground, seek their food plants and continue feeding throughout the summer.

It was noted that they preferred to feed on the tender growth of sorrel, that developed under the shade of tall grass and did not care for situations exposed to the light where the growth would naturally be more woody. This explains the fact that the damage from these insects is done to orchards wholly or partially in sod.

Control.

The control of the pest consists in the destruction of the weeds upon which the nymphs feed.