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AN INSECT ENEMY OF THE PARSNIP.

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For a number of years the work of the Parsnip Webworm (*Depressaria heracliana* Dec.) has been noticed on the wild parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum* Michx) growing in the vicinity of the Agricultural College, Truro. In the summer of 1914 an attempt to grow some cultivated parsnips for seed on the College Farm was unsuccessful owing to the attacks of this insect. The shortage in the supply of vegetable seed during the past season, consequent upon conditions in Europe, has given an impetus to the local production of such seed. As a result a number of our farmers have planted small plots of parsnips for seed purposes, but with rather disappointing results, as many complaints have reached us of serious damage occasioned by this pest. It would therefore appear that a brief description of the insect, with notes on its life history and habits, would be particularly opportune at the present time.

Description:

The Egg.—Stainton* says regarding the oviposition habits of the insect: "The egg of this species is no doubt deposited in spring on the undeveloped umbels of *Heracleum spondylium* by the hibernated female." Other writers have quoted Stainton in this connection, but though a number of entomologists have informed us that they are well acquainted with the egg, we have not been able to discover any further reference or any description of this stage in the literature at our disposal.

The eggs are small, more or less rectangular in outline, with rough edges, measuring .32 - .40 mm. in length, and .17 - .19 mm. in width. They are pearly white in colour and ribbed longitudinally, as shown in fig. 1.

*Stainton, H. T., Nat. Hist. Tineina, Vol. V, Part 1, 112-113 (1861).