

and again, *A. FUSCA* is decidedly numerous on peach twigs. Lastly, the second female pellicle is larger than the adult insect.

Judging, therefore, by all the external characters (except that of the second pellicle, of which I find no record), *AONIDIA FUSCA* is different from *ASPIDIOTUS PERNICIOSUS*.

But a careful comparison of the adult female insects shows that, with the exception of size, their characters are very similar. My specimens of *ASP. PERNICIOSUS* (originally received from Professor Comstock) average one 25th inch in length; those of *AON. FUSCA* average one 65th inch.

In colour the two agree; also in the absence of any groups of "spinnerets"; also in the terminal lobes, hairs, and indentations of the abdomen. The two last characters are of especial importance; so much so that I am strongly inclined to think that I made a mistake in separating the two insects, at least specifically. The identity of my Australian specimens of *ASPID. PERNICIOSUS* with those from America is absolute; my Australian *AONIDIA* is anatomically very close to both, the principal differences being external.

It remains to discuss the generic character of the comparative dimensions of the adult female and the second pellicle, a character which distinguishes *AONIDIA* from *ASPIDIOTUS*. I have already remarked that I find no notice on this point in any author as to *A. PERNICIOSUS*; but as regards *A. FUSCA* I have no doubt, and I possess a mounted specimen of an adult with the second pellicle still attached, the difference in size being perfectly clear; the pellicle extends all round beyond the adult. Assuming, therefore, that it may be necessary to unite the two insects, and to make *FUSCA* a variety of *PERNICIOSUS* on the ground of anatomical similarity, ignoring the external differences, it will become a question, then, of removing *PERNICIOSUS* from the genus *ASPIDIOTUS* and of attaching it to the genus *AONIDIA*.

It is stated in "Insect Life," Vol. VI., p. 362, that while the origin of *A. PERNICIOSUS* is uncertain, the probability is that it came to America from Japan. I believe that Mr. Koebele is in Japan at present studying the Coccidæ of that country; and he has, perhaps, discovered the native home of this injurious pest. But, in a letter which I received from him a few months ago, he says that the Japanese will not permit any specimens of insects to be sent thence by post; and we must wait till Mr. Koebele himself leaves the country to learn more about this scale. Mr. Benson of Sydney, however, tells me there have been many fruit trees imported into Australia of late years from Japan.