

before it is colourless), and consisting of three joints. The middle tibia has two brown zones, and a large thick spur. The ovipositor projects but slightly beyond the abdomen, and bears on each side of its tip a small brush of hairs.

Tachardia gemmifera must, I think, be regarded as an injurious insect, since it affects the Coco Plum rather seriously. The lac is so small in quantity that it would probably not pay to collect and prepare it.

Institute of Jamaica, Kingston,

Jamaica, Dec. 27, 1892.

NOTES ON TAXONUS NIGRISOMA AND T. DUBITATUS.

BY J. G. JACK, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

The following notes of observations of some stages of these two little saw-flies are fragmentary and incomplete, but they are now given as they may be of some assistance to others working upon this group of insects.

Taxonus nigrisoma, Nort., Larva.—The fully grown larva is cylindrical, and 10 to 12 millimeters long. It is of a pale green colour above, very slightly darker towards the sides above the spiracles, the spiracle line being marked by very minute dark dots one to each segment; and the under side (including the abdominal or prop legs) is of a dull whitish colour.

The upper part of the head is dark brown, shading from pale brown to whitish on the face and whitish beneath.

The eyes are black and prominent; antennæ small, six-jointed and light brownish coloured; and the mouth parts dark.

The thoracic legs are of a dull white colour, generally bearing more or less easily distinguishable narrow smoky brown or dark markings on the outer side of the apical segments, the strong, simple, terminal claws usually having a dark brown or black tip.

When they ceased feeding at full growth the larvæ abandoned the leaves of their food plant, which was *Polygonum Muhlenbergii*, Watson, and prepared for pupating by boring into the green stems of the food plant or sometimes into some such substance as partially decayed wood if it happened to be in the vicinity. In these burrows pupation takes place without the formation of any cocoon. The pupa is uniformly yellowish-white in colour, the dark eyes showing prominently.

Within a week or two after entering their burrows the insects emerge as saw-flies. Both larvæ and pupæ were very much parasitized by