

POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ENTOMOLOGY.—NO. 17.

THE LOCUST MITE.

BY T. D. JARVIS, ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH.

During the past summer the Locust Mite (*Trombidium locustarum*, Riley) has been very common at Guelph, especially on the Red-legged Locust (*Melanoplus femur rubrum*), but a few specimens have also been found upon the Two-striped Locust (*Melanoplus bivittatus*). The mite is most generally found attached to the base of the second pair of wings, although it is also found on the wing itself, and on any other part of the body where it cannot be readily detached by the locust; a favourite position upon the body is between the segments of the thorax and abdomen, and also behind the upper joints of the legs; in such position their only means of attachment to their host is apparently by their mandibles.

The young mites (fig. 46, *b*) are nearly spherical, and look very much like the eggs of insects. The mite sucks the blood of its host until it

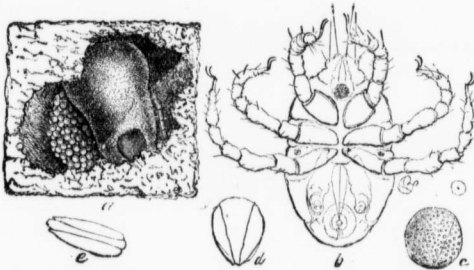


FIG. 46.—*TROMBIDIUM LOCUSTARUM*.—(a) female with her batch of eggs; (b) newly-hatched larva—natural size shown by the dot in a circle on the right; (c) egg; (d, e) empty egg-shells (after Riley).

reaches maturity, during which time it often becomes so swollen with food that its legs are rendered very inconspicuous. As many as five of these young larvæ have been found upon a single locust.

October, 1906.