

Missouri, namely, *Sigalphus curculionis* (Fig. 56) and *Porizon conotracheli* (Fig. 57). I am not aware that these friendly insects have yet been taken in Ontario, but it is quite possible that they may be working unobserved among us. A detailed description of both these insects may be found in the Report for 1876.

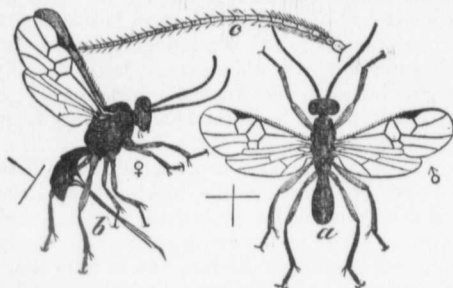


Fig. 56.

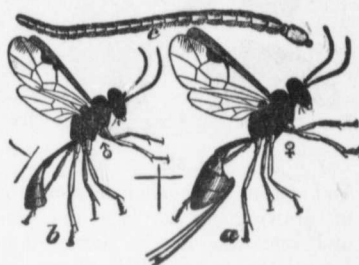


Fig. 57.

As already stated the curculio does not scruple, in the absence of the plum, to attack the peach, pear and apple. I was greatly amused during last season in watching the *little Turk* at his work upon our young pears and apples. I had a favourite pear tree the fruit of which I had never before seen, which blossomed nicely and set some five specimens, leading me to hope that I should be able to test their qualities when mature, but in a few days, lo the crescent! the familiar distinguishing mark of our fruit enemy was already seen upon them, and in time they all fell prematurely from the boughs. In many instances the same insect was noticed working upon the apples. As I was gathering in my winter apples, a few days ago, I came to a Northern Spy tree, a very large proportion of whose fruit was exceedingly ill-shaped, especially all around the lower branches. The fruit was disfigured by deep indentations and corresponding swellings or knobs. Upon examination it was found that those indentures on the fruit contained the mark of the familiar crescent of the plum curculio which probably will account for their deformed appearance. It would appear that the insect had cut the tender skin of the young fruit, which had interfered with the circulation and development in that place. The egg deposited had not hatched, or if it had the little grub had died. The crab-apples were by far the worst affected; scarcely a sample matured on many fine trees, and a number of fine young Tetopsky apple trees were totally deprived of their promising crop by the same enemy. Under such circumstances constant vigilance is necessary to secure a crop of fruit, and if the annual increase of insect life goes on unchecked it is easily seen that good fruit will become scarce and more expensive.

The remedies which have been recommended are numerous, and may be divided into two classes, viz., those that kill and those that merely deter. Under the first class may be mentioned jarring the trees and gathering up the insects. This is by far the best remedy at present known. P. Barry, in his excellent work "The Fruit Garden," says that this method was first recommended by David Thomas, forty years ago, and that on their extensive grounds it is successfully carried out. Mr. Downing also speaks highly of jarring, and recommends that it be repeated daily as long as the insects continue to make their appearance. Repeated trials have proven beyond question that this rather tedious mode is a very effectual one if persisted in. At a late meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, at Sarnia, Mr. James Lambert, of Sarnia, said: "He had tried the jarring plan with three trees and these were breaking down with fruit." Page 33, of 1878. In the November number of the *Gardener's Monthly*, just at hand, it is related of Mr. Cobleigh and Mr. Willard, of Geneva, N. Y., who are noted and extensive plum growers, "They practice shaking the trees, but their method is different from any one we have met with before. They have two light frames on which light muslin is spread. They look like huge barn doors but they are very light. These are placed under the trees when they are to be shaken. Then they have a long handled sort of crutch; the arm-rest as we would say if it were a crutch, being nicely padded to prevent injury to the bark. This is pushed up and the branches jolted and the "little Turk" comes down and is killed by the boys when it falls on

the muslin. I every day, and and-a-half to sl efficiency of this

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