

1888, with a fruit grower at Marlborough, N. Y., regarding what was doubtless this same Plum-twig Gall-mite. In this instance the galls also occurred along cracks on the bark of larger limbs, and in close connection with the Black Knot fungus, which was, of course, accidental. Again in 1891, Dr. Riley (Insect Life, Vol. V., p. 17) records a small mite as injurious to Damson plum trees at Berlin Cross Roads, Ohio. This was probably the mite under discussion. These are the only records I have found in American literature of any mite making galls on plum-twigs.

There has recently appeared in the European literature three admirable and exhaustive papers on the Phytoptidæ, by Dr. Alfred Nalepa [Sitz. der Math.-Natur. Classe der kais. Akad. der Wiss., Abtheil. I., Vol. 96 (1887), pp. 115-165; Vol. 98 (1889), pp. 112-156; Vol. 99 (1890), pp. 40-69]. Each article is accompanied by several finely executed plates. *Luckily, I had access to Dr. Nalepa's work, and I found that but one Phytoptid had been described which lived in galls on the twigs of plum trees. In Vol. 99, p. 54, he describes and figures this mite as *Phytoptus phlæocoptes*. In figure 2, I have reproduced (photographically) one of Dr. Nalepa's figures of the mite; it is the female and is magnified 450 diameters. The mites in the galls were very similar to, if not identical with, this European species. The only noticeable difference is in the shape of the body. The Pennsylvania mites are shorter and wider, but this may be quite possibly due to their being in hibernation and dormant. The European species was first described and figured as *pruni*, by Amerling, in 1868.

The mites could have been easily introduced into this country on plum stock, but the correspondent writes that his trees were grown in his vicinity "and are known as sucker-growth trees." If our mite is identical with the European species, and it probably is, the pest was introduced into this country some time previous to 1887, and it is now present in New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The fruit grower informs me that his trees are thrifty, but the fruit is undersized. So many thousands of the little creatures working at the

*Dr. Nalepa puts our knowledge of the Phytoptidæ on a scientific basis. He rightly discards all previous descriptions of the mites as inadequate and not definite enough for the determination of any species. He gives new detailed descriptions with excellent figures: and the species are renamed, usually with new names, but sometimes the old names are retained, as in the case of the Pear-leaf Blister-mite, which he calls *Phytoptus pyri*, n. sp. We should thus write *pyri*, Nalepa, instead of *pyri*, Scheuten. Dr. Nalepa's work should be in the hands of every one interested in the Phytoptidæ.