

that of the highest bipeds, who are often ignorant of the difference between a bee and a beetle, nor could they safely grasp the former. Yet this humble bug does know the distinction, and holds the bee well off, so as safely to suck out its substance. On p. 25, vol. 2, of the same work, this insect is briefly described and its habits given. Dr. A. S. Packard speaks of this stinging bug, in the *American Naturalist*, vol 1, p. 329, and also in his *Guide to the Study of Insects*, p. 552, where the insect is figured. Mr. Townend Glover, late of the Agricultural Department, in his beautiful work on the Hemiptera, p. 57, has described the habits of this bug, and has given three figures of it, Plate III., Fig. 13. Prof. P. R. Uhler, our greatest American authority in this sub-order, in "Hemiptera West of the Mississippi," p. 58, speaks of the habits of the *Phymata erosa*. In the current volume of the *Country Gentleman*, p. 551, the able entomological editor, Prof. J. A. Lintner, in response to a correspondent, gives a brief account of the habits, etc., of this same insect.

DESCRIPTION.

The "stinging bug" (Fig. 1) is somewhat jagged in appearance, about three-eighths of an inch long, and generally of a yellow color, though



FIG. 1.—Side view, natural size.



FIG. 2.—Magnified Twice.

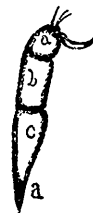


FIG. 3.—Beak, much magnified.

this latter seems quite variable. Frequently there is a distinct greenish hue. Beneath the abdomen, and on the back of the head, thorax and abdomen, it is more or less specked with brown; while across the dorsal aspect of the broadened abdomen is a marked stripe of brown (Fig. 2, d, d). Sometimes this stripe is almost wanting, sometimes a mere patch, while rarely the whole abdomen, is very slightly marked, and as often we find it almost wholly brown above and below. The legs (Fig. 2, b), beak and antennæ, a) are greenish yellow. The beak (Fig. 3) has three joints (Fig. 3, a, b, c) and a sharp point (Fig. 3, d). This beak is not only the great weapon of offence, but also the organ through which the food is