

In Charlemagne's day the parent stock still dwelt by the shores of the North Sea—from the Elbe westward to near the Rhine, and from the sea southward to the low mountains of Hesse and Thuringia. Thirty years of almost incessant warfare (772–803) were required to conquer and christianize this vigorous people and make their territory into a part of the Frankish empire. (See Charlemagne.)

Within little over a century afterwards the duke of the Saxons had become king of all Germany, and revived the Holy Roman Empire (see Otto, Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire). And even after the kingship and imperial power had passed to other German lines, the rulers of the duchy of Saxony—especially Henry the Proud and his son, Henry the Lion (died 1195), who also ruled Bavaria—were among the most formidable of German princes.

But modern Saxony has nothing but the name in common with the old duchy. Its very situation is different, for it lies at least 150 miles to the south-east, in a "mark" or borderland conquered by the former dukes from the Slavic Wends. After 1423 this territory and the Saxon vote in the imperial electoral college belonged to the princely house of Wettin. In 1485 the land was partitioned between two sons, from whom descended an "Ernestine" line with Wittenberg as capital and the title of elector, and an "Albertine" line with its capital at Leipzig.

Protector of Martin Luther

The Elector Frederick the Wise (1486–1532), who was Luther's sovereign and protector, was the head of the Ernestine line. In 1547 his successor was defeated by Duke Maurice, head of the Albertine line, who thereby obtained the title of elector, together with Wittenberg and other portions of Ernestine territory. To-day the Ernestine line is represented by a group of petty states known as the "Saxon duchies," lying in the Thuringian region to the west of the Albertine lands.

From the latter comes our present-day Saxony. It was devastated in the Thirty Years' War, but for nearly 70 years (1697–1763) its head was also (by election) king of Poland. It suffered severely at the ruthless hands of its Prussian neighbour, Frederick the Great. It was raised to a kingdom and had its territory increased by Napoleon, and then was deprived of its northern half, to the gain of Prussia, in

1815. It was again obliged to pay an indemnity to Prussia in 1866, for siding with Austria in the war of that year. But Saxony fought on the side of Prussia in the Franco-Prussian War and became a part of the new German

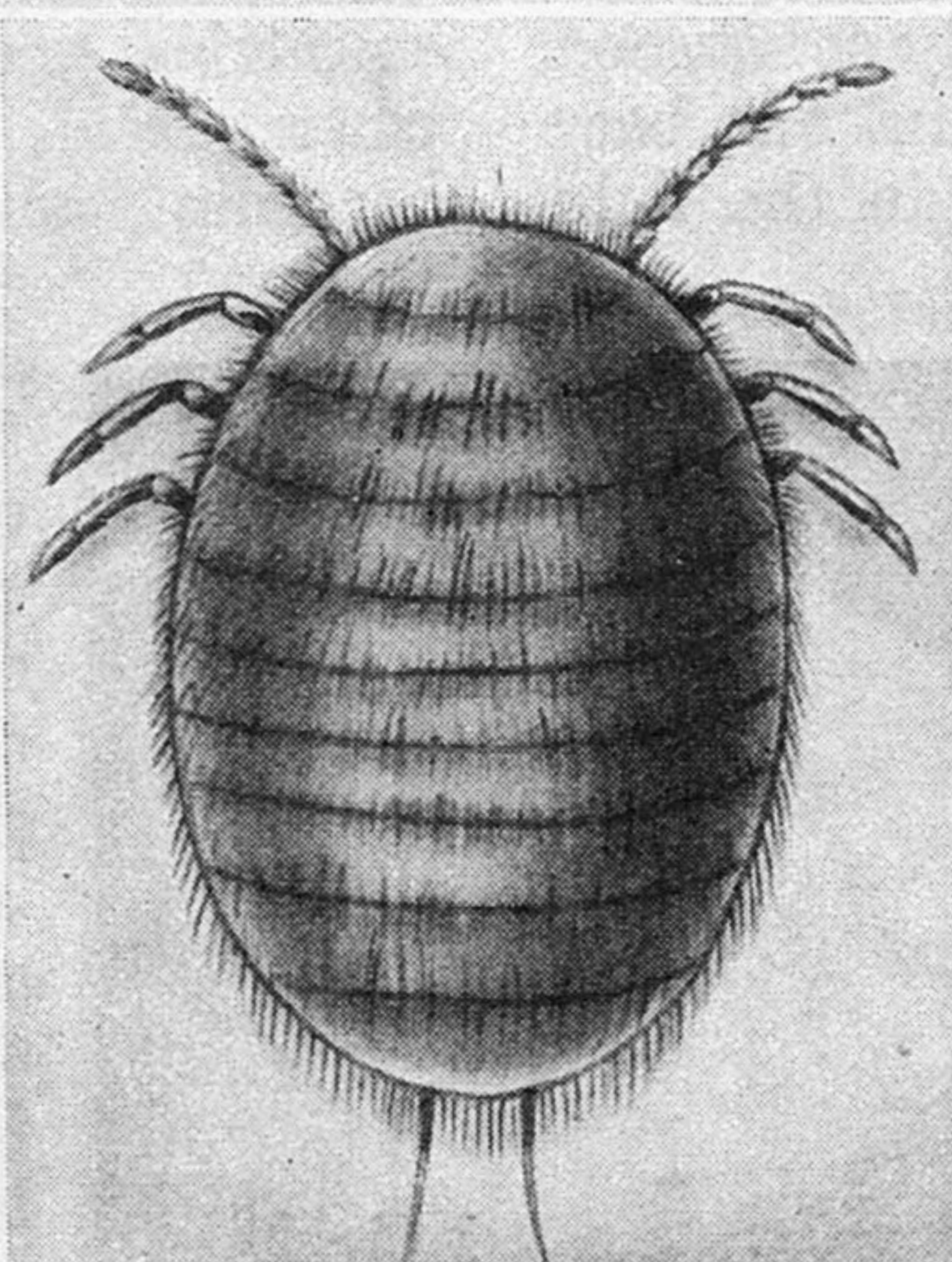
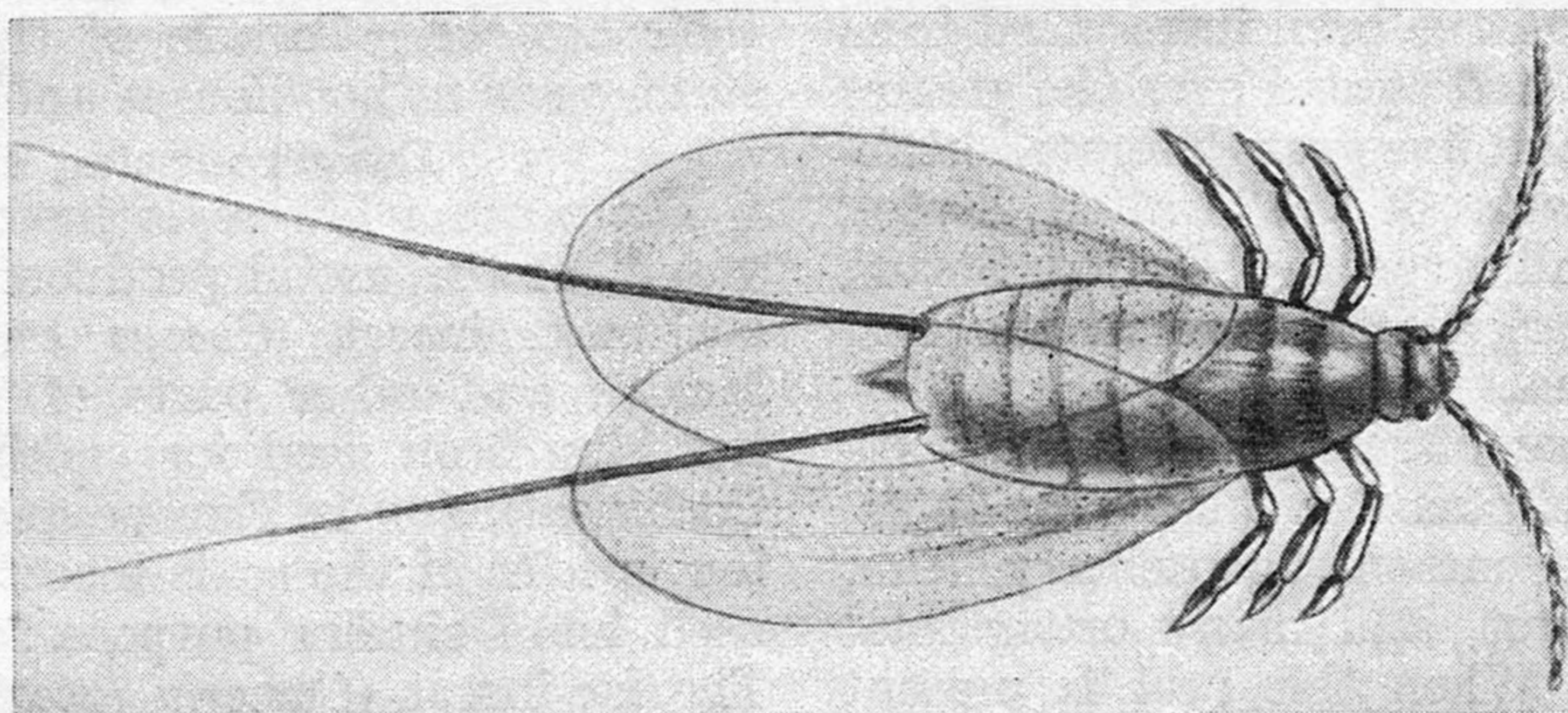
Empire in 1871. With the rest of Germany it deposed its hereditary rulers and became a republic after the armistice of November 11, 1918. (See Germany.)

SCALE INSECTS. Some years ago the fruit-growers of California were thrown into a panic by the discovery that immense numbers of insects were devastating their trees, threatening the flourishing groves of oranges and other fruits with destruction. Experts dispatched to Australia, whence the pest had accidentally been introduced, brought back with them the little red-and-black spotted Australian lady-bird beetle, which they found was the natural enemy of this pest in its native land.

When these imported beetles had multiplied sufficiently, numbers of them were sent to the fruit-growers, who liberated them in the groves. Swooping down on the feast, the beetles made quick work of the pest. By the aid of these beetles and other remedial measures, in less than two years the pest was so thoroughly controlled that, although more than 30 years have since elapsed, it has never again got out of hand.

The creature that did this damage is known in the U.S.A. as the cottony-cushion scale insect (*Icerya purchasi*), and is one of a number of species of the group of scale insects (*Coccidæ*) which are very injurious to fruit trees, ornamental trees, bushes, vines, and even grasses.

THEY HELP TO TURN THINGS RED



The upper picture shows the male Cochineal, the lower the female. From the dried bodies of these insects a famous red dye is made. The Cochineal is one of the few useful scale insects.