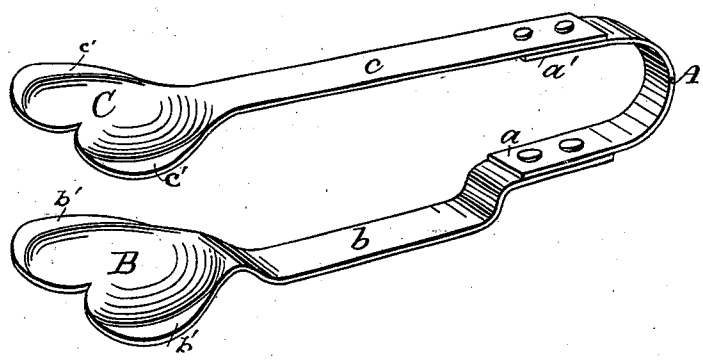
C. P. STEINMETZ.

Potato-Bug-Catcher.

No. 210,163. Patented Nov. 19, 1878.



Witnesses:

W. B. Masson

P. McNickle.

Inventor:

Conrad P. Steinmetz

by L. Deane.

atty

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CONRAD P. STEINMETZ, OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN POTATO-BUG CATCHERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **210,163**, dated November 19, 1878; application filed October 10, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CONRAD P. STEINMETZ, of Prairie du Chien, in the county of Crawford and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Potato-Bug Catchers, of which the following is a specification:

The figure is a perspective view, showing the catcher with jaws opened and ready for use.

This invention relates to that class of devices used for catching bugs, insects, or vermin, and more particularly that which infests potatoes and other vegetables; and the novelty consists in a catcher having a spring-handle, while each arm of the spring is at its outer extremity concave and considerably enlarged, the two extremities being so shaped that the upper will match with and fit closely upon the under, all as will now be more in detail set out and explained.

In the accompanying drawing, A denotes the spring-handle of the catcher. To its upper end, *a'*, is attached the straight arm *c*, and to its lower end, *a*, the bent or curved arm *b*. At the outer extremity of *b* is the concave jaw B, with horizontal flanged sides, flanges, or edges *b'*. This jaw, as shown, is made in a heart shape; but any shape that may be useful for the purposes in view may be adopted. At the outer extremity of arm *c* is a like jaw, C, having horizontal or flat sides, flanges, or edges *c'*, and said jaw is so made and fashioned that when it is laid upon B it will match and fit into and upon it quite exactly. When not in use the spring-handle will cause the two jaws to stand apart.

To use the device, the lower jaw is operated as a scoop to gather up the bug, insect, or the like, and when this is done the upper jaw is bent firmly down upon it by the hand of the operator, crushing whatever has been caught on the lower jaw.

The arms and jaws may be made of metal or wood, and many modifications in the mere size or shape of the parts may be made.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The bug-catcher herein described, consisting of spring-handle A, arms *b* and *c*, with concave jaws B and C fitting into each other, as shown, each of said jaws having flanged edges or sides, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CONRAD PHILIPP STEINMETZ.

Witnesses:

HORACE BEACH,

HORACE BEACH, Jr.