

(Enclosure.)

(Translation.)

THE COLORADO BEETLE.

THE Colorado beetle (*d*), which has committed such frightful ravages in the potato fields of America, when seen from above, has the shape of our native green brass beetle, but it is a little larger, about 11 to 12 millimètres (7-16ths inch) long. Its colour is a flesh tint, red or ruddy dove colour, with black eyes, 18 small black spots and specks on the thorax, and five curved stripes lengthwise on each wingcase (*e*). The knees and tarses of the legs are black. The stripe along the suture of the wingcases is very narrow, the others are rather broad; the side edges of these stripes are not sharply defined, and between them are seen a good many fine diminutive black or brown speckles on the dove-coloured ground.

The eggs (*a*) are glued fast by the mother beetle to the underside of the leaves, in little clusters of 30, or a few more or less. They are rather more than 2 millimètres (1-13th inch) long, and 0.7 millimètres broad, smooth, deep yellow or orange colour, and of a cylindrical shape, rounded at both ends. Within five or six days the young larvæ (*b*) make their appearance from these eggs. At first they are blood red; this colour subsequently changes to a flesh tint. The full-grown larvæ (*c*) are between 8 and 9 millimètres (7-20ths inch) long, thick and swelling out behind the second ring of the body; projecting like a hump on the back, pointed at the end, bare all over, and without any pimples or warts. The circular shaped head, somewhat indented in front, is of a glossy black, with a whitish upper lip, four small black eyes on each side, protected by little bristly hairs; the upper jaw has five small teeth. The thorax is white at the fore edge, then black whilst the other longest part is flesh coloured, with many small olive brown spots, each separately formed of two specks. The remaining part of the body is flesh coloured or yellowish, with two rows of round black spots, one above another, at the sides. The six legs, of which the hindmost are rather long, have black hips and white thighs, with shanks and tarses black on the upper and white on the under side.

After having ravaged the plants for 19 days, or nearly three weeks, the larvæ, being full grown, creeps into the earth and turns into a chrysalis, from which, in summer, the beetle appears after 10 or 12 days. There are three generations every year, and the last spends the whole of the winter in the pupa state under ground.

If you meet with this formidable enemy of the potato field, in any shape whatever, kill it at once.

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