

Michigan, sparingly feeding on grass, on which it had also deposited its eggs. Later in the season (July 20), at Fort Gratiot, Michigan, I encountered it in large numbers, in both the larva and perfect states, in the vicinity of potato fields (where it had committed terrible depredations), devouring the younger leaves and flower buds of the common thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*, Scop.), which it was rapidly stripping even to its thick stem so that the entire top of the plant hung down, almost severed. In the same neighborhood I also saw it on pigweed (*Amarantus retroflexus* L.), hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale* Scop.), the cultivated oat, smart-weed (*Polygonum hydropiper* L.), and the red currant and tomato of the gardens, as well as the common night-shade (*Solanum nigrum* L.), the last two its more legitimate food. But of the last mentioned plants, with the exception of the night-shade, it ate only the young leaves, and of them very sparingly. The thistle it seemed particularly to relish. Could its attention be diverted from the potato to the Canada thistle it would encounter an object worthy of its prowess; and the curses which have been heaped upon its striped back would be turned to blessings. But, I fear, little good can be hoped from the capacity, thus evinced, to diversify its food, and so accommodate itself to circumstances. This can only be regarded as another obstacle in the way of its extermination.

Since writing the above I have found the beetle feeding on the maple-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium hybridum* L.), lamb's quarters (*C. album* L.), and thoroughwort (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* L.); and August 8, 1872, I saw it in the larva and perfect states, voraciously eating the black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger* L.), on which was also to be seen an abundance of the eggs.—HENRY GILLMAN, Detroit, Michigan, September, 1872, in *American Naturalist*.

THE ANT-LION.—While in the Indian Ladder Region, Albany Co., N. Y., in August, 1871, I found a large colony of ant-lions. It is situated near the head of the "Ladder Road," at the base of the cliffs and extends for several rods along the path to the "Tory House." The cliffs here hang over the paths, so that it is almost impossible for rain to reach the spot. The soil is composed of disintegrated limestone, extremely fine, but mingled with minute fragments of stone as well as larger pebbles.

In Aug., 1871, the colony numbered rather more than 600 individuals, but on July 6, 1872, there were scarcely half that number. Perhaps at